

## What is Prevent?

Prevent is short for 'Preventing Violent Extremism'. The overall aim of **Prevent** is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism by raising awareness of the issues and supporting people who may be vulnerable.

The Government launched a new Prevent strategy in June 2011.

You can read the national strategy and out more about Prevent on the [Government's Prevent webpages](#)

## The objectives of the Prevent Strategy

The Prevent Strategy has three main objectives:

- **Ideology** to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and of those extremist views conducive to it.
- **Individuals** to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism by developing and expanding programmes to identify who they are, and then to provide them with community-based support; and
- **Institutions** to work within the wide range of sectors and institutions where the ideology, the ideologues and vulnerable people come together and where there are either risks of radicalisation or opportunities to prevent it – or both. That means education, health, faith, charities, prisons and probation, and the internet.

## Some common misunderstandings about Prevent

Prevent is not about catching terrorists, it is about identifying people who may be at risk of radicalisation and supporting them to change direction in a way that will help them.

It is not 'spying on communities'. Those suspected of being engaged in illegal activity will be managed through the criminal justice system in accordance with normal criminal justice processes. Prevent is about working *with* communities to help them support vulnerable people and build resilience to groups or individuals who seek to create divisions and cause harm.

There are only a **very** small number of people who support terrorist activity, or are likely to. The vast majority of people, in all communities, want to see terrorism prevented, and want to play their part as good citizens in helping to make that happen.

Prevent work covers all forms of potential terrorism, such as Al Qaeda inspired, the far right, Irish republican, animal rights and others. There is a growing concern about the risk of far right violence, especially since the killings in Norway in 2010, and 'neo Nazi' activity elsewhere in Europe.

## Which organisations can be banned by the Government?

Under the Terrorism Act 2000, the Home Secretary can ban or 'proscribe' an organisation if she believes it is concerned in terrorism. For the purposes of the Act, this means that it: commits or participates in acts of terrorism; prepares for terrorism; promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism); or is otherwise concerned in terrorism.

A group cannot be banned for extremist views alone.

You can read more about [what the Home Secretary takes into account when banning an organisation and look at the current list of proscribed organisations](#)

## How is Prevent work carried out in Leicestershire and Leicester?

Will Baldet is Leicestershire and Leicester's Prevent Coordinator, based at the St Philip's Centre in Evington. He reports to the Home Office and to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Prevent Steering Group, which is chaired by Leicester City Council's Chief Operating Officer and consists of

all the local public sector bodies who are responsible for Prevent work in the city, such as local councils, the Police, Probation Service, Health services and Universities.

To help the Prevent Steering Group decide what Prevent work needs to be done locally, Leicestershire Police draws up an annual **Counter Terrorism Local Plan** which sets out any risks or threats of people supporting extremist ideologies in the city. This document covers all forms of extremism, including support for far right views.

The Prevent Coordinator has written local **Prevent Delivery Plan for Leicestershire and Leicester** which sets out how the city will address the risks of extremism, based on the national Prevent Strategy. The Prevent Coordinator is now working with public bodies and local communities in Leicester to implement the Prevent Delivery Plan.

## What kind of work is being done as part of the Leicestershire and Leicester Prevent Delivery Plan?

The local Prevent Delivery Plan is a comprehensive and detailed document, and some of the things it includes are:

- **Community engagement**  
Leicestershire's approach to Prevent will be to help communities themselves to identify and challenge violent extremism in an appropriate way.  
Community engagement will also help to identify the local, national or international issues and events, that may drive people to support violent extremist causes.
- **Channel**  
One of the main elements of our Prevent work is a programme called Channel, whereby people who are assessed as being vulnerable to supporting violent extremism are provided with multi-agency support. Channel has been operating successfully in Leicestershire and Leicester for about five years, and covers all forms of extremism. The support that is offered is tailored for each case, and could consist of help with family problems, mental health support, mentoring, religious support and others. People who are referred to Channel are not criminals; but may be at risk of committing an offence if not supported.
- **Safeguarding and training**  
Prevent work includes training staff who work in communities or with individuals and families to spot people who may be at risk of supporting violent extremism and refer them for support (for example to Channel). This is similar to safeguarding people who may be at risk from abuse.
- **Support for organisations and individuals to challenge extremist ideology**  
Many people and groups want to work actively to change extremist ideology, and uphold the values of tolerance, democracy, cohesion, equality, the rule of law and freedom of speech. This is most powerful when it comes from within communities themselves. The Prevent Delivery Plan will identify and encourage community-based activities and projects to help this to happen.
- **Opportunities for communities to debate issues relating to extremism**  
Prevent work will include opportunities for people to learn about, debate and question issues that can be linked to extremism, for example with local leaders and with representatives from the Foreign Office or US Embassy.

## How is Prevent work funded?

A lot of the work of implementing Prevent is done as part of the normal work of local public bodies, and therefore does not need additional funding. But when there are activities in the Leicestershire and Leicester Prevent Delivery Plan that need extra funding, the Prevent Coordinator will liaise with Leicester City Council to put together a bid for a Home Office grant. Leicester City Council will act as the 'accountable body' for money paid by the Home Office for Prevent work in Leicester, but the Prevent Coordinator will make sure the projects are implemented successfully.

## How can I find out more?

[Leicester Prevent website](#)

[Prevent training information](#) from the Children's Workforce Development Project

[prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk)

[Twitter: @Leics\\_AVE](#)

[Report online extremist content](#)

A teenage boy armed with guns and explosives planned to emulate the Columbine massacre by attacking his former school, jurors have heard.

The boy, who was 16 at the time, also listed several other targets in Leicestershire, including a mosque, college, cinema and university.

The 17-year-old, from Loughborough, denies terrorism offences.

He and two other 17-year-olds have admitted possessing petrol bombs and component parts of pipe bombs.

Opening the case at the Old Bailey, Max Hill QC said the jury must consider whether the boy was a "misfit" or "something altogether more sinister and serious".

"Is that child's play? Is it harmless? Or is it something more sinister?" he said.

A Che Guevara notebook emblazoned with Nazi swastikas and English Defence League (EDL) mottos were found when his home was searched by police in February, the jury was told.

The notebook included drawings showing how he would arm himself and discussed tactics to carry out "the New Columbine", the court heard.

In 1999 two students killed 12 pupils and a teacher in a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Colorado.

## **Dark Knight poster**

Links to various far-right groups and anti-Islamic writings were found, the jury was told.

Mr Hill said the boy claimed to be a member of an EDL branch and had a Nazi swastika on his bedroom wall along with a poster of the Joker from the Batman film, the Dark Knight.

A number of homemade videos shown to the jury were allegedly filmed by the boy and his two friends as they tested a type of explosive called a Molotov cocktail.

The boys identified themselves as the URA - Urban Revolutionary Army - and could be seen throwing the explosives against a building wall, Mr Hill said.

The court was told counter-terrorism officers found a cache of items, including partially assembled petrol bombs, a quantity of part-assembled pipe bombs, other partially constructed improvised explosive devices (IEDs), a stab-proof vest and a number of air, blank and BB guns.

The boy, who has Asperger's syndrome, denies possessing articles for the purpose, preparation and instigation of an act of terrorism and possessing a document or record containing information likely to be useful for a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, namely The Mujahideen Poisons Handbook.

He also denies another charge of possessing parts for an improvised explosive device.

None of the teenagers can be named for legal reasons.

The trial continues.

## More on This Story

### Related Stories

- [Teenagers in court over bomb charges](#)

On April 20, 1999, two teens went on a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, killing 13 people and wounding more than 20 others before turning their guns on themselves and committing suicide. The crime was the worst high school shooting in U.S. history and prompted a national debate on gun control and school safety, as well as a major investigation to determine what motivated the gunmen, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17. There was speculation that the two committed the killings because they had been bullied, were members of a group of social outcasts that was fascinated by Goth culture, or had been influenced by violent video games and music; however none of these theories was ever proven.

## Columbine Shootings: April 20, 1999

At approximately 11:19 a.m., Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, dressed in trench coats, began shooting fellow students outside Columbine High School, located in a suburb south of Denver. The pair then moved inside the school, where they gunned down many of their victims in the library. By approximately 11:35 a.m., Klebold and Harris had killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded more than 20 other people. Shortly after 12 p.m., they turned their guns on themselves