

Federation of Yatton Schools – Safeguarding Information

The Prevent duty: what it means for school staff

This brief guide will help inform you of your responsibilities around the PREVENT duty and who to contact if you are worried or unsure about anything.

The PREVENT Strategy has been around since 2011 but its profile has been raised with the passing of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act in September 2015.

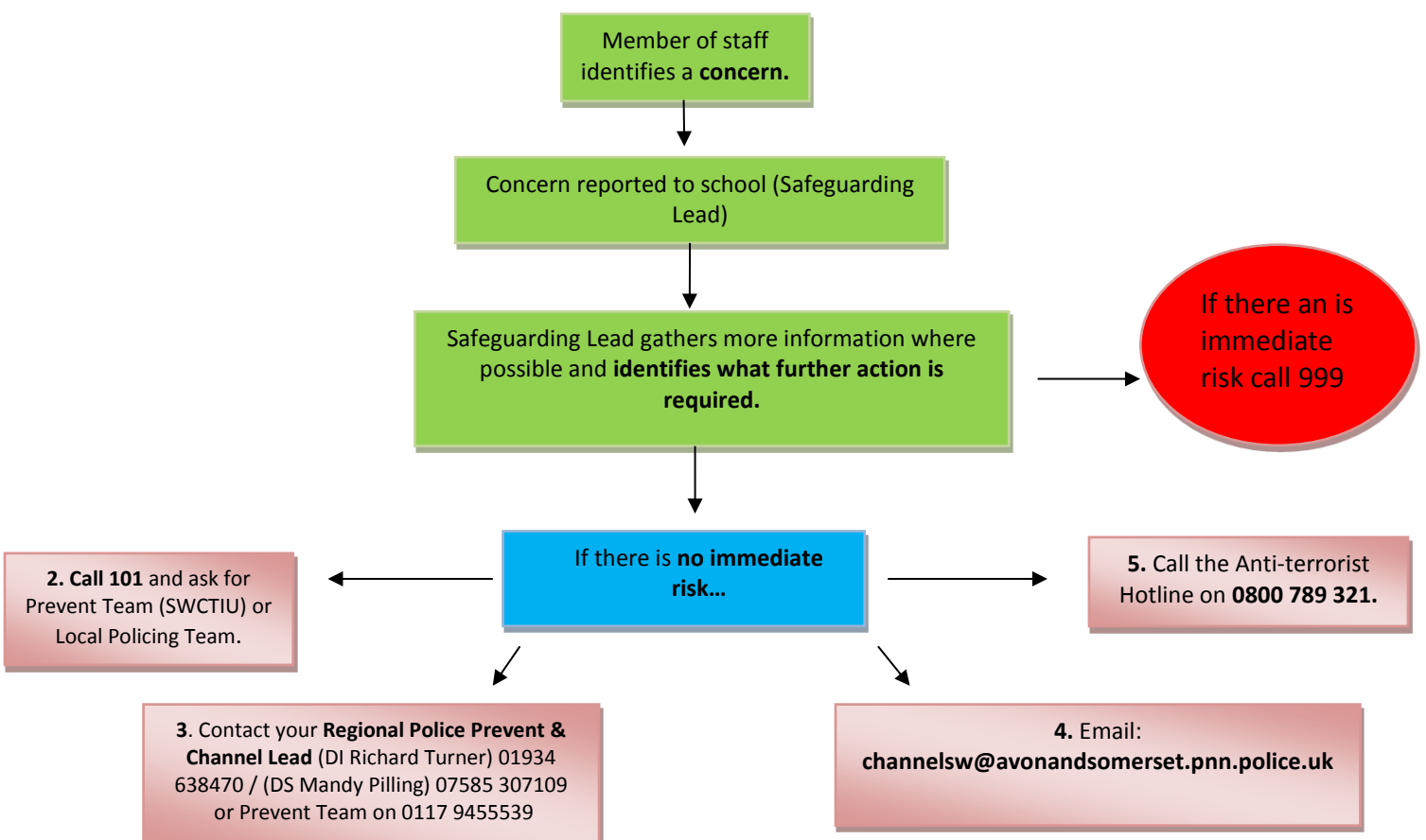
All schools must have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, supporting terrorism or being drawn into non-violent extremism and to ensure that vulnerabilities are given appropriate advice and support.

The government has defined extremism as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including:

- Individual Liberty
- Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

The prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe place in which young people can develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

PREVENT is part of SAFEGUARDING and any concerns about our learners or families should be referred in the established way for any Safeguarding concerns:



Vulnerabilities

We all need to be mindful of the range of vulnerabilities that would indicate that an individual may need support. Vulnerabilities include amongst other things:

Isolation or Exclusion

- Need
- Anger
- Desire
- Frustration
- Grievance
- Guilt
- Self Esteem
- Unsettled home life
- Sense of injustice
- Critical incident in a person's life
- Fear
- Substance abuse

Having one or more of these characteristics or circumstances will not necessarily drive someone to terrorism. BUT we must accept that it is a possibility –no matter how remote. The MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU DO SOMETHING, as with any safeguarding issue, if you have any concerns.

Types of PREVENT concerns that you might refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead are:

- Overhearing comments which suggest extremist attitudes
- Finding graffiti which suggests extremist or terrorist views
- Intolerant attitudes or views expressed by learners or staff
- Third party concerns that a learner has plans to travel abroad
- Direct disclosure of vulnerability – someone who is being radicalised
- Evidence of staff or learners possessing or accessing extremist materials
- Expression of extremist views including through social media
- Using extremist language
- Threats of violence