

01 Background: The name of the UK Government's overarching counter-terrorism strategy is 'Contest'. The aim of Contest is to: **"reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence."**

Contest is split into four work streams:

1. **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks through investigation, detection and disruption
2. **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism
3. **Protect:** to strengthen against terrorist attack, focusing on border security, the transport system, national infrastructure and public places
4. **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped

Why it matters:

Since 1970, the UK has faced the most deaths as a result of terrorism in Western Europe. The current terrorism threat level in the UK is SEVERE, meaning that an attack is highly likely. The threat level was raised to critical, the highest level of alert, in May 2017, in the direct aftermath of the Manchester bombing and once again in September 2017 following the Parsons Green London Underground terror attack.

The importance of safeguarding vulnerable individuals from radicalisation and violent extremism cannot be overstated. More and more vulnerable people are being influenced by dangerous views through peer groups and online. These vulnerable individuals do not make conscious and rational decisions about supporting or becoming terrorists and they need to be protected by agencies and professionals.

Information:

As an integral part of CONTEST, the **Prevent strategy** aims to stop people either from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It does this by:

- challenging the spread of extremist ideology
- preventing vulnerable individuals from being drawn in by it
- working with a wide range of sectors and institutions where there are risks of Radicalisation.

Channel is a key part of the Prevent strategy.

It uses existing links between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and local communities to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assess the nature and extent of that risk, and
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Support may consist of help with family problems, mental health support, religious support, mentoring or anything else deemed to be suitable. Wherever possible, Channel will compliment any mechanisms or interventions already in place to safeguard the individual.

07 What to do?

Any concerns around violent extremism, for both adults and children, contact Greater Manchester Police on 0161 856 1030. For information on training contact GMP on 0161 856 6345

- [Home Office Prevent e-learning](#)
- [GMP website](#)
- [RBSCB website](#)
- [RBSAB website](#)

Questions:

What is Extremism?

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. There are many different types of extremism, but could be grounded in religion, the far right, islamophobia, animal rights or politics, among others.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is process by which people come to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.



Information:

Disrupting terrorist activity, preventing radicalisation and supporting those vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism is a shared responsibility under Prevent. The statutory duty to actively participate in Prevent is placed on:

- the local authority
- schools and registered childcare providers
- publicly funded further education colleges
- higher education institutions
- the health sector
- police
- prisons and probation