

Prevent Policy

1. Scope and Purpose

Loughborough College considers the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults of paramount importance and aims to safeguard and promote their welfare, safety and health by providing an open, caring, responsive and supportive learning environment which responds to needs of learners and apprentices immediately.

Children, young people and vulnerable adults are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk is a part of Loughborough colleges' safeguarding approach.

As part of this ethos the College has considered the Prevent Duty and the importance of collaborative working between college staff, local authorities, police, other educational institutions, policy makers and health providers to identify, detect and safeguard vulnerable people throughout the organisation

There is no single way of identifying whether a child, young person or vulnerable adult is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a person's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised.

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of a Government counter terrorism strategy to develop a robust counter terrorism programme- CONTEST. CONTEST has four elements Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent. Prevent aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorists by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qa'ida associated groups. But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to our safety and security. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause.

The Prevent strategy seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, false and misleading narratives about the virus have been spread, particularly online, to force change or to place blame on 'out-groups' and minorities. This can further incite hatred, justify violence, and divide communities. While some of this occurs on popular social media platforms, it can also be found on lesser known, less moderated platforms. These sites can include easily available extreme and conspiratorial content.

The Commission for Countering-Extremism (CCE)ii have highlighted the following prominent extremist narratives:

- **Antisemitism:** Several conspiracies blame the Jewish community for spreading the virus, including claims that COVID-19 is a Jewish plot, either as a hoax or a deliberate creation, to remove civil liberties and impose totalitarian rule.
- **Anti-Muslim hatred:** Claims that British Muslims have flouted social distancing rules and spread the virus have been promoted, particularly on social media. Whilst these have been disproven, high profile extreme right-wing influencers have blamed Muslims for the spread of the virus.
- **Anti-Chinese hatred:** Hate crime and hate incidents towards Chinese people have risen. Reports have found a 300% increase in the use of ‘hashtags’ that encourage or incite violence against China and Chinese people online.
- **Islamist:** Islamist extremists have used COVID-19 to support existing narratives to promote the need for a Caliphate over democratic society, claiming the pandemic is a divine punishment for the West’s ‘sinful’ behaviours.
- **Right-wing:** Right-wing extremists have similarly exploited the pandemic to amplify the weakness and hypocrisy of democratic values like tolerance and freedom.
- **Accelerationism:** Extreme right-wing individuals have promoted the idea that society is inevitably collapsing, and that right-wing terrorism can accelerate its end through inciting social conflict, violence and ultimately a race war.
- **Wider conspiracy theories:** Extremist individuals have exploited a number of prevalent non-extremist conspiracy theories, related to 5G, track and trace and anti-vax, which can be detrimental to public health messaging. In some cases, these have been linked to antisemitic or other hateful narratives. Although Left Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue (LASI) extremism is low, a minority of individuals have supported the targeting of 5G masts. This was based on the perception that masts allowed the government to control people.

The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as ‘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.

A system of threat level has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

Critical- an attack is expected imminently

Severe – an attack is highly likely

Substantial – an attack is a strong possibility

Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely

Low – an attack is unlikely

The college risk assessment and action plan will be updated in accordance with updates to the threat level.

2. Policy Statement

The Policy is consistent with:

Prevent Policy
Applicable to: Staff, Learners/Apprentices, public
Approved by:
Accessible to: Staff, Learners/Apprentices, public

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Version 1.0

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Owner: Designated Safeguarding Leads

- The legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as described in Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2021)
- Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) procedures and guidance for safeguarding children and adults.
- Working Together To Safeguard Children (2018)
- Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2019)
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (2019)
- Protecting the UK against terrorism (2015)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Care Act-(2014) see chapter 14 safeguarding
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Human Rights Act (1998)

3. Definitions

Radicalisation

How a person comes to **support terrorism** and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. A **radicaliser** is someone who encourages others to develop or adopt beliefs and views **supportive of terrorism** and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Vulnerable/Vulnerability

This refers to children, young people and vulnerable adults. A vulnerable adult is someone who is, or may be in need of support due to age, illness or disability including mental health. A vulnerable person is someone who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves, **or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.**

Extremism

The UK government considers extremism to be the **vocal or active opposition** to the **British Values.**

British Values

The British Values are **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty** and **mutual respect** and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.

Terrorism

An **act of violence** which is carried out with the purpose of influencing the governments or intimidating the public. For an act of violence to be considered a terrorist act it must be for the purpose of advancing a **political, religious or ideological cause.**

4. Implementing the Prevent Duty

The Prevent duty forms part of all schools and colleges safeguarding procedures. All adults working with or on behalf of children, young people and vulnerable adults have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse including radicalisation and to record and report concerns to the safeguarding team.

The college has a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead as well as a team of safeguarding officers to be able to offer advice and guidance and support with safeguarding concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead are trained in WRAP (workshop to raise awareness of Prevent) and work closely with the regional East Midlands Prevent Coordinator, including accessing local FE Prevent networking groups to update on knowledge and localised risks. The college has a safeguarding and prevent action plan to ensure the duty is implemented.

Concerns about radicalisation follow the normal safeguarding referral process as outlined in the safeguarding policy and staff training. Anyone concerned about the welfare of a learner or apprentice linked to radicalisation should make a referral to the safeguarding team.

The college complies with the Prevent duty in the following ways;

- **Risk Assessment**

The college has a risk assessment in order to assess the level of risk of learners and apprentices being drawn in to terrorism. The risk assessment highlights such things as raising awareness of Prevent, working in partnership, training for staff, curriculum and welfare, pastoral support, policies and recruitment, speakers and events, safety online, prayer and faith facilities, safeguarding, communications and freedom of expression.

- **Training and support for staff**

All staff, including Governors are required to complete Prevent training so they are aware of their responsibilities under the duty. This training is mandatory and is updated annually. Where staff do not comply with the training they are unable to access college IT systems and return to work until the training is complete. Additional training opportunities will be provided to all staff to support them to support and challenge and further understand the risks and vulnerabilities linked to radicalisation and the process for this. Staff are able to seek support through our HR functions or through de-brief opportunities with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, should they feel they need this.

- **Training and support for learners**

All learners and apprentices are required to complete prevent and safeguarding modules as part of their induction in to the college. The curriculum teams have access to an online training module which is facilitated by curriculum staff. For level 1 and below, all learners receive face to face training within induction. The college also ensures support through its safeguarding procedures for learners and apprentices through the Additional Learning Support team, the Mental Health and Wellbeing team and the Inclusion team. Support for learners and apprentices also extends to external agencies where needed.

- **IT policies and processes**

The college policy relating to e-safety, internet and email usage using college equipment is reviewed regularly. The college's web filtering systems allow reports to be created to the Head of IT and the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Where learners and apprentices are required to research terrorism or counter terrorism as part of their learning,

curriculum are required to inform the Head of IT. Where learners or apprentices are accessing such material online, a meeting will be arranged with the learner the Head of IT and the Designated Safeguarding Lead to assess the level or risk in regards to radicalisation. The college recognise online safety as being paramount to keeping children and young people safe, the college use e-safe to track and monitor learner activity for safeguarding purposes, this is communicated to all learners and apprentices as part of learner induction.

The college has software implemented across campus called "Alertus" which is software to be able to communicate cross college in the event of a lockdown situation. The lockdown is triggered by a member of the gold command executive team as part of the college critical incident plan. Staff and learners and apprentices receive training, advice and guidance of what will happen in the event of a lockdown situation on the college campus.

5. Procedure for acting on concerns

All staff are responsible for ensuring the safety of learners and apprentices. Should there be any concern linked to a learner or apprentices wellbeing, including the risk of potential radicalisation, all staff are required to report this to the safeguarding team as per their safeguarding training and the safeguarding policy. Where appropriate the safeguarding team may make outward referrals to Channel or the regional Prevent Coordinator, where it is identified that there is a risk of radicalisation.

Following this referral it may be deemed that external agencies and partnership working are the most appropriate support for the learner or apprentice. This may not always be the case, the channel team may identify that whilst there have been vulnerabilities identified, these may not be linked to radicalisation and therefore the appropriate referrals and support will then be put in place.

Safeguarding/Prevent remain a priority, the dedicated Safeguarding Phone provides support and advice to both learners, apprentices and staff. The phone is operation during college hours 08.30-5pm Monday- Friday. 07979737474 .

6. Location and Access to the Policy

This policy will be accessible via SharePoint and the Loughborough College website.

7. Persons Responsible for the Policy and Procedure

Designated Safeguarding Lead

8. Linked Policies and Procedures

- Safeguarding Policy
- IT acceptable use policy
- Critical incident management plan

9. Change Log

Date	Version number	Details of change	Review / Revision by	
			Name	Title
24/08/2017	1	No changes resulting from review	Heather Clarke	Head of Learner Services, Designated Safeguarding Lead
24/072018	1	Section 4 – changed to reflect 3 designated safeguarding leads, since recruitment of the Safeguarding Coordinator. No other amendments identified	Heather Clarke	Head of Learner Services, Adult and Community provision, Designated Safeguarding Lead
22/08/2019	1	4. updated to detail the use of e-safe for online monitoring for safeguarding purposes	Heather Clarke	Head of Learner Services, Lifelong Learning, Designated Safeguarding Lead
22/08/2019		4. updated to reflect the process for staff making referrals through the safeguarding referral process	Heather Clarke	Head of Learner Services, Lifelong Learning, Designated Safeguarding Lead
03/09/2020	1	1.Updated Scope and Purpose statement	Dannii Donovan	Mental and Safeguarding Lead- Interim Deputy Designated

				Safeguarding Lead
03/09/2020	1	2- Updated Policy Statement	Dannii Donovan	Mental and Safeguarding Lead- Interim Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
03/09/2020		4- Updated Implementing the Prevent Duty	Dannii Donovan	Mental and Safeguarding Lead- Interim Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
24/08/2021	1	Implementing the Prevent Duty - Paragraph added to IT policies and processes, detailing the implementation of Alertus software and how this is initiated, including training for staff and learners and apprentices	Heather Clarke	Assistant Principal, Learner Services, International. Designated Safeguarding Lead
31/08/2021	1	Header and footer changes/amendments.	Hayley Dobson	ISO Administrator

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Designated Safeguarding Staff will review the scope and effectiveness of this strategy annually. Recommendations for change will be made to the Senior Executive Team and then to the Governing Body. The latest version of the document will be maintained on the College website.