

Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism – the local picture

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Government Strategy - CONTEST

- CONTEST is the Government's strategy to reduce the risk to the UK from terrorism – four elements:
 - *Pursue*: to stop terrorist attacks (police responsibility);
 - *Prevent*: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism – Prevent Duty strengthened 2015 – (all local authorities are specified authorities);
 - *Protect*: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack (building resilience in a coordinated way to threats and hazards to the public place, so public realm, economic development and forward planning); and
 - *Prepare*: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack (emergency planning).

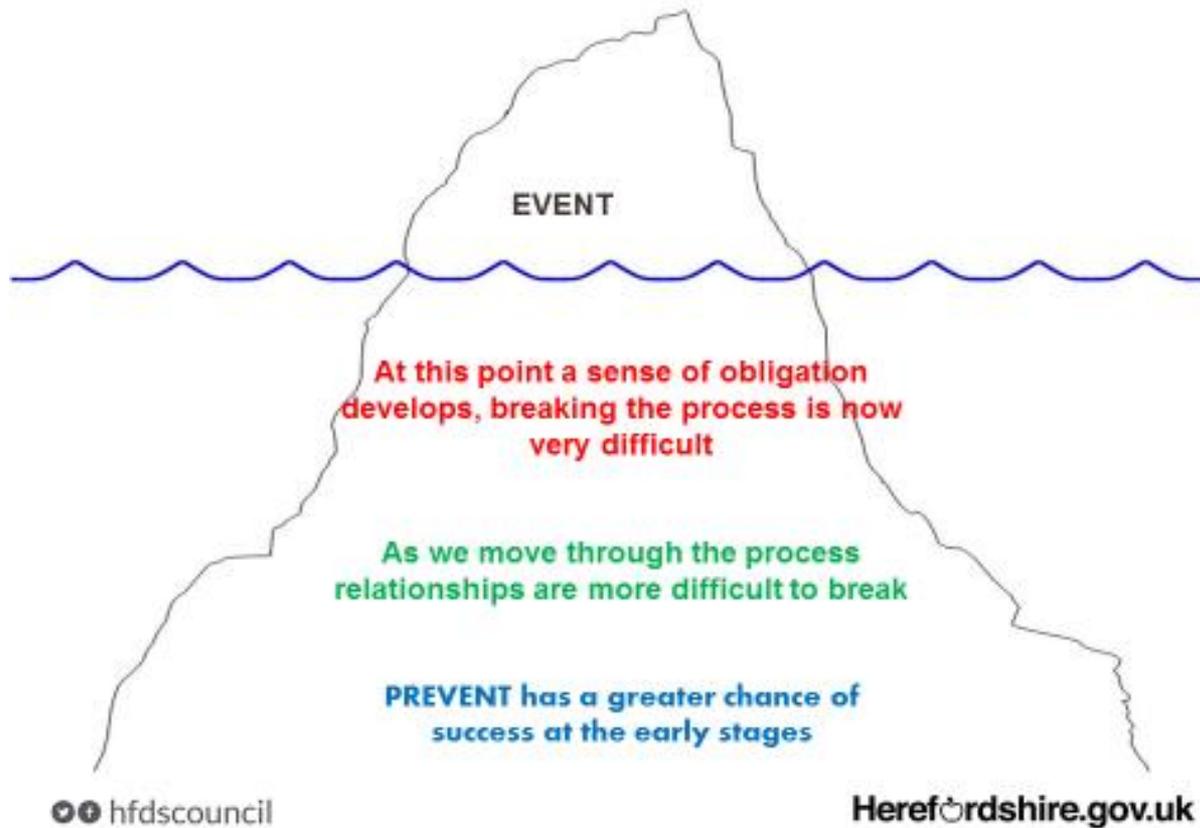
Prevent – local authority

- Coordinate Prevent using multi-agency group.
- Assess risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
- Develop an action plan to reduce the risk.
- Train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism.
- Refer vulnerable people to Channel.
- Establish responsible booking policy for public venues.
- Do not engage with extremist organisations.

Local Context

- Herefordshire is identified as low risk, but doesn't mean no risk;
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has placed additional duties under Prevent on local authorities and other public sector organisations;
- Good awareness locally including schools, colleges and further education / training providers of Prevent Duty requirements;
- Since July 2015, 17 Channel Panel referrals, with 9 meeting the threshold (individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism);
- Channel Panel is working well in Herefordshire (feedback from West Mercia Police Prevent Team).

The Iceberg Analogy



Channel Panel at work

- The age range of referrals in Herefordshire is 14 – 40, to date the most common range is 14 – 18
- The background of this group shows a difficult home life, either within the family unit or the 'system'.
- We have been able to successfully intervene with people from all the age ranges, helping the individual to move on positively.
- **Some examples of the work**
- Interventions range from a mentor offering a new perspective for the YP to consider, to attending a boxing club in the city, offering the opportunity for the YP to meet other YP with similar life struggles.
- We have also supported a person to convert from Christianity to Islam, offering community contacts to support this, moving the person away from the advice offered over the internet.

Push Factors- all forms of extremism

- Lack of alternatives – what does society have to offer?
- Actual or perceived alienating experiences (bullying, cyber-bullying, discrimination on grounds of colour / race / religion)
- Disaffected with accepted societal norms – could be foreign policy, austerity measures, animal rights
- Not feeling empowered to engage with political and democratic processes
- Lack of an outlet for views / Lack of identity.
- Disruptive home life
- Lack of excitement – frustration. What is the alternative?
- Social *inequality*, marginalisation and exclusion

How is Herefordshire countering the extremist narrative?

- Working one to one
 - diversionary activities / mentoring
- Wider narrative
 - teaching British values / shared values
 - Community cohesion – working across communities
 - No Prejudice In Herefordshire – promoting the county as a safe and welcoming place

