

# 'Diverting vulnerable people away from harm'



## The Channel process :July 2019



### IT'S ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

- Channel is an early intervention process similar to other safeguarding initiatives designed to divert people away from drugs, gangs or knife crime.
- It is aimed at those most at risk of being attracted towards support for or involvement in terrorist related activity.
- It is about diverting vulnerable people away from any potential threat at an early stage, before any crime has been committed .

### IT WORKS WITHIN A LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Channel requires proportionate & appropriate information sharing to be undertaken to build an accurate picture of each individual's support needs. All personal data collected is stored on a bespoke case management system which is subject to the same rigour as other patient data & is fully compliant with the Data Protection /Human Rights law.

### IT'S TRULY MULTI-AGENCY



- ✓ All referrals are carefully assessed by a local authority led Channel panel, made up of reps from different safeguarding areas i.e. health, education, social services, & the police.
- ✓ The Channel Duty places a duty on all partners to co-operate with panels– for health this means attending panel meetings as required & identifying any interventions including for those with a mental health treatment need.
- ✓ Support will vary according to an individual's vulnerability/needs & may include mentoring, counselling, access to specific services such as health, employment & education, training or housing.
- ✓ A bespoke plan will be put in place and regularly reviewed by the panel until it is agreed that the person's vulnerability has been sufficiently reduced.

[Link to Channel Duty Guidance](#)

### SOME FACTS & FIGURES

Channel explicitly addresses the threat posed by all forms of extremism including the rising Extreme Right Wing (XRW) threat.

- The majority of those found to need support from Channel are under the age of 20 and male (90%).
- Since 2012, 1,267 people have been successfully supported by Channel.
- Of 394 individuals receiving Channel support in 2017/18, 45%) were referred for concerns related to Islamist extremism and (44%) because of XRW concerns.
- Of those that received Channel support in 17/18, 84% left with their vulnerability successfully reduced.

[Link to Channel data 2017/18](#)



MYTH BUSTERS

### CHANNEL IS NOT...

**A criminal sanction:** Participation does not lead to a criminal record and will not appear in any future employment checks.

**Targeted at a specific faith or ethnic group:**

Channel addresses all forms of radicalisation including an increasing number of people being supported because of XRW concerns.

**Compulsory:** Channel is a voluntary programme and engagement requires consent to be given by the individual (or their parent/guardian). No one can be forced to participate in Channel.

**About terrorism:** Channel is a safeguarding option for those referred to Prevent, & is available in every area. Those who need & want support will be offered help through a multi agency plan.



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