



NORTH WEST COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT

Greater
Manchester

SAFEGUARDING
PARTNERSHIP

CHANNEL

Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Pack

Children



Contents

Channel	3
FAQs	5
Safeguarding Flowchart	7
Pan Greater Manchester Procedure.....	8
Safeguarding Against Violent Extremism	18
Referral and Assessment Form	19
Confidentiality Agreement	22

Channel



In Greater Manchester, vulnerable individuals being targeted for radicalisation/recruitment into violent extremism is being viewed as a safeguarding issue.

Subsequently Greater Manchester Police are leading on Channel. Channel is a mechanism for ensuring that individuals identified as vulnerable to violent extremism are supported through existing multi-agency safeguarding frameworks. This ensures professionals from relevant partner agencies are brought together to share information and decide upon the most appropriate support for that person.

The structure for your area is as follows:

Regional Channel Manager: Gaynor Egerton – 0161 856 6325 or gaynor.egerton@gmp.police.uk

GMP Channel Lead: DS Julie Haworth - 0161 856 636 or julie.haworth@gmp.pnn.police.uk

Coordinators	Email	Ext	Area		
DC Tracy Hale	tracy.hale@gmp.pnn.police.uk	66368	Oldham	Stockport	Tameside
DC Darren Howarth	darren.howarth@gmp.pnn.police.uk	66332	North Manchester	Salford	Wigan
DC Claire Donnelly	claire.donnelly@gmp.pnn.police.uk	61030	Bolton	Bury	Rochdale
DC Paul Meadows	paul.meadows@gmp.pnn.police.uk	66373	Metropolitan	South Manchester	Trafford

It may be that in the past, agencies have had concerns about vulnerabilities related to violent extremism but the lack of a structured response has led to those concerns not being fully investigated. It is recognised that while many of the more serious cases are dealt with by the police, it is the responsibility of all agencies under 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' to safeguard and promote welfare.

Local authorities have a key role to play in the day-to-day delivery of this work through their responsibilities for tackling violent extremism at a local level and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

As the designated single point of contact (SPOC) for your organisation we are here to support you to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable children and adults, and to assist you to develop good practice within your organisation around this issue.

Raising Awareness

As the SPOC for your organisation, it is important to raise awareness around this agenda and promote the necessity to safeguard vulnerable children and adults from being exploited and recruited into violent extremism. It is expected that the SPOC will promote their position and responsibility, providing advice and guidance to practitioners within their organisation. The Channel coordinators have a range of training packages available to help raise awareness, by training your trainers the aim is to mainstream this safeguarding agenda.

Receiving Referrals

As the SPOC, it is expected that once a practitioner within your organisation identifies an individual vulnerable to radicalisation that they contact yourselves first to discuss the case internally. If deemed suitable, the practitioner will then be asked to complete the Referral and Assessment Form (RAF). This should then be emailed to the Channel coordinator at channel.project@gmp.police.uk. The Channel Officer will then carry out an extensive risk assessment that aims to identify known risks and additional vulnerabilities. (At no point will the person be created on a criminal records system.) The coordinator will then complete a case summary and return it to both the SPOC and the practitioner. The practitioner should then arrange a multi-agency safeguarding meeting with the necessary professionals to support the vulnerable individual.

Channel can assist this process by using our list of SPOCs from other agencies to help ensure the right people are brought to the multi-agency meeting

Finding Out More:

'Learning Together to be Safe' guidance for schools and colleges

www.dius.gov.uk

HM Government, 'The Prevent Strategy : A Guide for Local Partners in England'

<http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk>

Every Child Matters

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

FAQs

What is Channel?

Channel is a mechanism to support vulnerable individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism. It works by:

- Identifying individuals who may be at risk of and vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism
- Assessing the nature and extent of the risk
- Where necessary, referring cases to a multi-agency panel that decides on the most appropriate support package to safeguard that individual.

Q. How does it work?

Partner agencies will provide diversionary support aimed at reducing the potential for radicalisation. This support may include:

- Educational support
- Involvement in sporting activities
- Support with employment
- Faith mentoring

This is similar to the way that we would seek to safeguard individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs, knife and gun crime, gangs or other social issues.

Q. Isn't this an attempt at policing people's thoughts?

The process is not about criminalising those who hold particular political ideologies or beliefs. It is about preventing people from committing acts of violence by providing support and protection for those who may be at risk of being drawn into violent extremism.

Q. Aren't you targeting Muslims?

The process can apply to any individual who may be vulnerable to violent extremism. It is about supporting vulnerable individuals to avoid them from being drawn into criminal behaviour and can apply to any threat or violent extremist group.

Q. Is this process aimed at young people?

This process is not specifically aimed at young people. It is designed for any individual who may be vulnerable in this way.

Q. How do you identify who is vulnerable?

A single profile of a violent extremist or a single pathway to violent extremism does not exist. There are a range of factors that may facilitate the process towards violent extremism. It is important to remember that the presence of one or more of these factors will not automatically lead to engagement in violent extremist activity.

Q. Where do referrals come from?

Referrals can come from a wide range of sources and could include communities, youth offending teams, social services, schools or police.

Q. Can anonymously received information be used?

Yes. Although we will check the validity and reliability of the information to check it is not malicious.

Q. Is it intended to be a route to enforcement by the police?

No. Supporting those who may be most at risk of being drawn into violent extremism is about supporting individuals and diverting them away from risk. This is not about criminalising people who have not committed an offence.

Q. Who delivers Channel?

The process is a multi-agency approach with a wide range of agencies and local partners working together to provide support for individuals. This includes statutory partners, community groups and police. GMP have four police officers in post as coordinators.

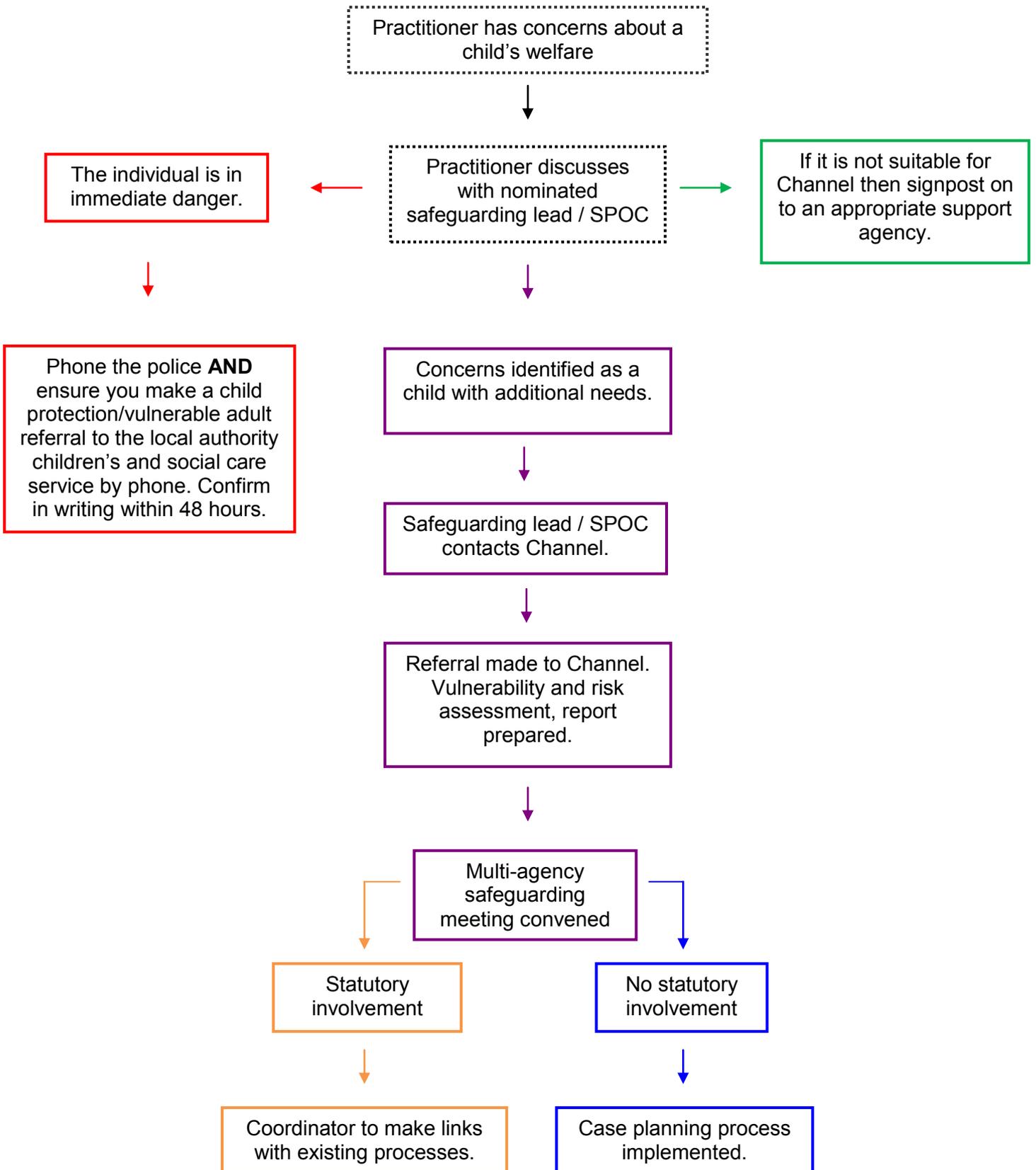
Q. What information is shared with partner agencies?

Sharing information with partners effectively is crucial to ensure that a fully informed assessment of vulnerability is made. This will ensure accurate decisions can be made on the right type and level of support to be provided. However, we are clear that information should be shared responsibly and only that information that is necessary and relevant should be shared in line with established information sharing protocols in local areas.

Q. What if someone who has been referred to Channel withdraws or displays even more concerning behaviour?

Each support package is tailored to the needs of the individual and is monitored closely and reviewed regularly. The process exists to protect individuals from becoming involved in violent extremism. If an individual displays more concerning behaviour they may exit the Channel process and be referred to a more appropriate department within the CTU or partner agency.

Preventing Violent Extremism Safeguarding Flowchart



**Pan Greater Manchester Procedure for
Safeguarding Children and Young People
Vulnerable to Violent Extremism**

NOVEMBER 2013

1. Introduction

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.

The 10 Greater Manchester local authorities and Greater Manchester Police, agree that this exploitation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

This guidance is intended to provide a clear framework for all professionals working with children for whom there are concerns that they are at risk of becoming involved in violent extremist activity.

It includes the link between safeguarding procedures and the Channel programme, and provides a mechanism for supporting those who may be vulnerable to violent extremism by assessing the nature and the extent of the potential risk and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package.

2. Definitions

Violent Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as:

"The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views, which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts;
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK."

There are a number of offences that can be considered when dealing with violent extremism. They include offences arising through spoken words, creation of tapes and videos of speeches, internet entries, chanting, banners and written notes and publications.

The main offences employed to date have been soliciting murder and inciting racial hatred.

The Greater Manchester Local Safeguarding Children Boards recognise the government position that Violent Extremism inspired by an Al Qaeda ideology, which advocates a distorted version of Islam, is considered to be the greater threat to the UK by the security

services. However, they also seek to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including that linked to a Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and that linked to Animal Rights movements.

3. Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies have provided the framework for this safeguarding protocol:

- The Children Act 1989; as revised by the Children Act 2004;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013);
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, Department of Health 2000;
- Channel: Supporting individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists: A Guide for Local Partnerships, HM Government with Association of Chief Police Officers, 2010;
- The revised national CONTEST (Counter-Terrorism) Strategy 2011;
- Recognising and responding to radicalisation. Considerations for policy and practice through the eyes of street level workers. (Recora Institute)

4. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

There is a statutory duty for workers to share information where there are concerns about the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult. Numerous pieces of legislation place a power or duty on local authorities to share information safely and actively in specific circumstances including:

- The Data Protection Act 1998;
- The Human Rights Act 1998;
- The Common Law Duty of Confidence;
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
- The Children Act 2004 Sections 10 and 11;
- The Caldicott Principles.

All information sharing must be conducted in accordance with a relevant legal power of duty, and be proportionate and relevant to the circumstances presented.

5. Identification

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

The research and evidence base pertaining to this risk group is limited, but is developing rapidly.

Most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremism.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop an understanding of the issue. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resilience and protect individuals from engaging in violent extremist activity.

It is important to be cautious in assessing these factors to avoid inappropriately labelling or stigmatising individuals because they possess a characteristic or fit a specific profile.

It is vital that all professionals who have contact with vulnerable individuals are able to recognise those vulnerabilities and help to increase safe choices.

It is necessary to remember that violent behaviour operates on many levels in the absence of protective factors and that individuals largely act within the context of their environment and experiences.

Research shows that indicators of vulnerability can include:

- Identity Crisis - Distance from cultural / religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them;
- Personal Crisis - Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- Personal Circumstances - Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet Aspirations - Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Criminality - Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration; previous involvement with criminal groups.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of exploitation for the purposes of violent extremism.

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders;

- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.

6. Referral

Each agency will have been asked to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. **Appendix 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** sets out the responsibilities of the SPOC.

As with other safeguarding issues, where a professional has any concerns that a person or their family may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the organisation's safeguarding lead and the SPOC if this is not the same person. The SPOC should offer advice and guidance about the appropriateness of making a referral to Children's Social Care and/or undertaking integrated working processes, such as the Common Assessment Framework, to better understand the issue and gather additional information.

If, at any stage, it is felt that the individual poses an immediate danger to themselves or any other person, the police should be called immediately.

If the concerns about an individual are not serious, the Safeguarding Lead / Prevent SPOC may decide that they can be addressed by action within the organisation. In this case, the organisation should take the appropriate action to address any concerns, and review whether the concerns remain after this.

If the Safeguarding Lead / Prevent SPOC consider that the concerns relating to an individual are more significant, and require a multi-agency response, they should:

- Refer their concerns to the Police;

- Make a referral to Children's Social Care - see Making Referrals to Children's Social Care Procedure. Where an assessment has already been undertaken (e.g. for a CAF) this may be used to supplement the referral.

7. Assessment

CAF remains the primary vehicle for assessing vulnerable young people, including those who may be vulnerable to violent extremist messages:

- However, where a referral is made to Children's Social Care, given the complexity of this issue and the need to access materials that may only be available within the North West Counter-Terrorism Unit, cases will be subject to an initial Vulnerability Assessment as identifying vulnerabilities is necessary for effective intervention and the understanding of individual risk management.

Information received from the Channel Team will be used to guide the decision-making process. See **Appendix 2: Channel** for information about the Channel Process.

Most children and young people do not become involved in violent extremism. Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism. Therefore, in many cases interventions identified through the Channel process may not appear to be specific to the threat of radicalisation. For example, they might relate to other needs of the individual such as in respect of mental health support, housing, relationships, offending behaviour or drug and alcohol issues. There may however sometimes be a need for specialist interventions in relation to de-radicalisation and disengagement. These will be commissioned as required. See **Appendix 3: Additional Assessment Considerations**.

Appendix 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

As the SPOC for your organisation you will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that other staff in the organisation are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing individuals from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from

radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;

- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of the organisation in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Raising awareness within the organisation about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the organisation for case discussions relating to individuals who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Making referrals of individuals at risk to Greater Manchester Police or the Channel Co-ordinator as appropriate in line with the safeguarding policy;
- Collating relevant information from your organisation in relation to referrals of vulnerable children and young people or adults into the Channel process;
- Attending Channel meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

Appendix 2: Channel

Channel is a multi-agency approach, led by Greater Manchester Police, to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity.

Channel seeks to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity;
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

It is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them, their families and their communities. Refer to the Considerations below in **Appendix 3: Additional Assessment Considerations** when deciding whether to refer to Channel.

'Any person who is susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors that may lead to the person demonstrating or exhibiting violent extremist behaviour. This will also include violent domestic extremism'

As a minimum there must be information evidencing a concern that the individual is either moving towards support for terrorism, or an attraction to terrorism or a vulnerability to radicalisation.

The Channel Team is based at GMP Headquarters within the North West Counter-Terrorism Unit.

The telephone contact number for the Channel Team is 0161 856 6362.

The e-mail address for the Channel Team is **channel.project@gmp.police.uk**

Appendix 3: Additional Assessment Considerations

(To be considered against unique personal circumstances of referred individual)

The list is not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of violent extremism.

Section 1 - Access to Extremism / Extremist Influences

- Is there reason to believe that the subject associates with those known to be involved in extremism - either because they associate directly with known individuals or because they frequent key locations where these individuals are known to operate? (E.g. the subject is the partner, spouse, friend or family member of someone believed to be linked with extremist activity);

- Does the subject frequent internet access locations for the purpose of extremist activity? (E.g. Use of closed network groups, access to or distribution of extremist material, contact associates covertly e.g. Skype/email);
- Is there reason to believe that the subject has been or is likely to be involved with extremist/ military training camps/ locations?
- Is the subject known to have possessed or is actively seeking to possess and/ or distribute extremist literature / other media material likely to incite racial/religious hatred or acts of violence?
- Does the subject sympathise with or support proscribed groups e.g. propaganda distribution, fundraising and attendance at meetings?
- Does the subject support groups with links to extremist activity but not proscribed e.g. propaganda distribution, fundraising and attendance at meetings?

Section 2 - Experiences, Behaviours and Influences

- Has the subject encountered peer, social, family or faith group rejection?
- Is there evidence of ideological, political or religious influence on the subject from within or outside UK?
- Have international events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the subject resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour? Note it is important to recognise that many people may be emotionally affected by the plight of what is happening in areas of conflict (i.e. images of children dying) it is important to differentiate them from subjects that sympathise with or support extremist activity;
- Has there been a significant shift in the subject's behaviour or outward appearance that suggests a new social / political or religious influence?
- Has the subject come into conflict with family over religious beliefs/lifestyle choices?
- Does the subject vocally support terrorist attacks?
- Has the subject witnessed or been the perpetrator/victim of racial or religious hate crime or sectarianism?

Section 3 – Travel

- Has the subject travelled for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism?
- Is there a pattern of regular or extended travel within the UK, with other evidence to suggest this is for purposes of extremist training or activity?
- Has the subject employed any methods to disguise their true identity? Has the subject used documents or cover to support this?

Section 4 - Social Factors

- Does the subject have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the subject suffer a lack of meaningful employment appropriate to their skills?
- Does the subject display a lack of affinity or understanding for others, or social isolation from peer groups?
- Does the subject demonstrate identity conflict and confusion normally associated with youth development?
- Does the subject have any learning difficulties/ mental health support needs?
- Does the subject demonstrate a simplistic or erroneous understanding of religion or politics?
- Does the subject have a history of crime, including episodes in prison?
- Is the subject a foreign national, refugee or awaiting a decision on their immigration/national status?
- Does the subject have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?
- Has the subject experienced any trauma in their lives, particularly any trauma associated with war or sectarian conflict?

End

Promoting the Need to Safeguard **Against Violent Extremism**

Channel is an early intervention strategy aimed at identifying and supporting those individuals vulnerable to radicalisation into violent extremism

Channel seeks to intervene in the lives of people who may be prone to radicalisation. It is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them, their families and their communities. Early intervention and support to these individuals is a key process in diverting people away from violent extremism.

Channel is designed to establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention processes to identify vulnerable individuals and provide them with diversionary intervention to support them and reduce their vulnerability.

All we ask is that should you come across an individual who appears to be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation that you contact your safeguarding lead who will be able to provide you with advice and guidance on what to do next.

Your safeguarding lead for this is:

Name
Title
Contact

Referral and Assessment Form

Person making referral:

Contact number:

Subject's Surname		Forename(s)	
D.O.B & Place of birth		Male/Female	
Address			
Tel No(s) Mobile		Email	
School or Employment			

Reason for referral

Household composition

Name	D.O.B	Gender	Relationship to subject

Other Significant Adults

Name	D.O.B	Gender	Address	Relationship

Agencies Involved	Contact	Telephone	Email

Assessment: Please complete the following, alternatively you may attach a completed CAF or ASSET or APIR

Family History, functioning and well-being

(Illness, bereavement, violence, drug use, criminality, relationship breakdown)

Participation in learning, education and employment

(Attendance and achievement, personal and social development)

Health

(Physical and mental well-being. The impact of genetic factors and of any impairment need to be considered)

Emotional/Social Development

(Confidence, psychological difficulties, coping with stress, adaptation to change)

Identity, Self Esteem, Self Image and Social Presentation

(Perceptions of self, sense of belonging, experiences of discrimination, acceptance by family, peer group and wider society, understanding of the way in which appearance and behaviour are perceived by the outside world and the impression being created)

Based on the above, what are the key needs of the subject?

Based on the above what do you think is the impact/risk for the subject?



Channel

Multi-Agency Panel

For the consideration of this meeting: it is considered by at least one partner agency that the vulnerabilities presented by the subject under consideration outweighs the duty of confidence to that subject.

However, whilst all relevant information should be made available to enable the appropriate solutions to be accessed within the meeting, that information should not be shared outside of this meeting without the expressed agreement of the agency providing it. Failure to do so will be considered a breach of subject confidentiality and the confidentiality of the agency concerned.

By signing this attendance sheet, you are confirming your understanding of and agreement to abide by the above statement.

Subject Name.....

Date of Meeting.....

Agency Contact Details:
.....
.....