

New Counter Terrorism Safeguarding Website

We would like to make you aware that we will be launching a new CT Policing safeguarding website in September 2020. This website will aim to provide information and advice and encourage the public to act early with concerns they may have about a friend or loved one who might be becoming vulnerable to radicalisation.

Our work to deliver the Prevent strategy has never been more important. From the rise in right wing terrorism over recent years and the increase in online activity due to the Coronavirus lockdown, the threat from radicalisation is becoming more complex. Throughout lockdown referrals from our statutory partners in health and education have decreased, but the risk of vulnerable people being radicalised online, or fostering grievances at home, have increased.

Family and friends have a vital role to play as they are best placed to spot the signs that someone might be vulnerable to radicalisation. But for this audience to come forward and share their concerns about someone close to them, the barriers are higher. For Prevent to succeed, our communities need to have confidence in policing and see that with our support and the support from key partners, early intervention can provide people with another path and divert loved ones away from terrorism and protect them from suffering or causing harm.

However, research has shown that the majority of the public have little understanding of Prevent and do not feel confident to spot the signs of radicalisation. But, a recent study found that the more they know about Prevent, the more likely they are to share their concerns about someone who might be vulnerable. The aim of this new website is to provide transparency and information so that we build awareness and confidence in the Prevent process and with the help of our communities, identify and support those vulnerable to radicalisation at an early stage

The key communication objectives for the website include:

- ☑ Increase awareness of where to go for further information and support
- ☑ Increase awareness of the signs of radicalisation
- ☑ Increase understanding of, and confidence in, the referral process
- ☑ Encourage referrals from concerned family and friends at an early stage
- ☑ Highlight the police safeguarding role in the Prevent

The website, which has been tested with the public and families who have seen their loved ones become radicalised, will simplify the online journey for finding advice on radicalisation concerns and share information on signs to spot, case studies, the referral process and the police's role in safeguarding. It will signpost to partner agencies delivering Prevent and will also include two short films. The first film will feature Prevent officers explaining their work and encouraging people with concerns to come forward. The second film will use Prevent officers to talk through the referral process to help provide transparency and confidence.

Our intention is that in the longer term, this new website will replace Let's Talk About It, and NCTPHQ will work closely with partners who currently signpost to LTAI to agree the transition process and final timescales.

As plans progress in the run up to the launch we will be providing a communications toolkit with information and collaterals for officers and communications teams in forces to support the website launch and further updates on the planned PR activity. We will also provide a toolkit for Prevent officers with posters and visuals to assist with community engagement. To receive the toolkit, or if you have any questions, please email the communications team: nctphq.comms@met.police.uk.

soft launch of the website will help us assess how this campaign is received by the public, partners and critics of Prevent. This first phase of the campaign also provides us with the foundation to progress, develop and build on for future campaigns.

Thank you for your help and co-operation as we continue to work together and with our communities to defeat terrorism.

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