

## CASE STUDIES

Prevent is about stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation. Prevent seeks to intervene early and ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation to terrorism are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes. The Key Principles of Prevent have been developed to set out and clarify existing Prevent policy and help people to understand Prevent's core purpose.

There is no single model of a radicalisation journey or a single profile of a radicalised person. A range of various factors should be considered when deciding if there is a concern that someone may be on a pathway that could lead to terrorism. Those making a referral should ensure they have undertaken recent, relevant Prevent training and utilise tools such as the National Referral Form.

The case studies below are examples of some of the complex cases and individuals who might be considered for a Prevent referral.

Please note that these case studies are not exhaustive or representative of all Prevent referrals. They **should NOT be used as a checklist for deciding whether or not to make a Prevent referral**.

Further training and guidance on identifying the signs of radicalisation and making referrals to Prevent can be found on [ACT Early](#) and [GOV.UK](#).

### CASE STUDY 1

Concerns were first raised about TJ, aged 16, when they began showing fellow students' videos of people being blown up and individuals using knives and guns.

TJ demonstrated a continued interest in knives, reportedly once again showing other students' pictures of knives they owned and claiming to sometimes carrying them in public.

Other students also said TJ often talked about Hitler and other violent, historical leaders. TJ did not appear to have a clear or consistent ideological motive but had an interest in the Columbine shooters and other similar attacks. TJ seemed interested in the notoriety they gain from such attacks.

Given TJ's persistent interest in extreme violence and mass-casualty attacks, there was reasonable concern that TJ was on a pathway that could lead to terrorism and is therefore suitable for a referral to Prevent.

## **CASE STUDY 2**

TW, 14, is receiving treatment for depression, which has included suicidal thoughts.

Child and adolescent mental health services support has identified concerns regarding an increasing interest with committing mass casualty attack at their school, which seems to have increased since receiving a school suspension for violent behaviour.

TW recently disclosed engaging in chat rooms where they have been receiving encouragement to carry out these acts.

The desire to cause harm to self and others, interest in mass casualty attacks and potential external influences would make this a suitable case for referral into Prevent.

## **CASE STUDY 3**

TR, a 17-year-old, was referred to Prevent following concerns about a sudden change in behaviour, withdrawing from family and friendship groups, a dip in academic performance, and converting to Islam in secret from their family. Multiple sources describe him as easily led and not streetwise.

Converting to Islam is not a concern and would not make someone relevant to Prevent. However, TR's family are concerned about their use of the internet to only engage with their new faith online – TR is guarded about their internet use around peers and refuses to engage with local Muslim communities, choosing instead to travel around the UK to meet unknown people.

TR has also began expressing the belief that the Manchester Arena bombing was justified in the context of wider persecution of Muslims around the world, and a family member had heard them talking to someone online asking if they belong to ISIS.

TR was accepted onto Channel for support. Several sessions with an Intervention Provider were provided to explore TR's Islamic beliefs and address some of the concerns. Sessions with the wider family also helped them to understand Islam and build a more positive family dynamic.

## **CASE STUDY 4**

AS is a 30-year-old who recently came to the attention of Police after calling to inform them of his plans to attack his mental health team. AS was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC), and told Police that they felt the need to kill or make threats in order to get somebody's attention.

AS has consistently displayed an interest in the use of extreme violence, often targeted at specific individuals or groups such as their mental health team and

other support services. It is not yet clear whether AS has a history or experiences of violence.

Based on the information currently available, AS would be more appropriately managed by services other than Prevent as their threats are focused on specific individuals and they are actively reaching out to agencies for help. At this point, there is not a concern that he is on a pathway that could lead to terrorism. This is not to suggest that AS does not potentially pose a risk of harm to others, but this should be addressed by other safeguarding services for now.

### **CASE STUDY 5**

JH, 15, is in social care following a history of parental substance misuse and neglect. JH appears to lack emotional connection or empathy and has stated that they do not have a strong emotional connection with any friends or family.

JH is known to the police following an incident of trying to harm animals in public using a knife and was found hiding a knife in their room.

Concerns were raised when JH expressed a desire and intent to kill their family and has put thought into how they would do this. These thoughts appear persistent, and JH seems excited when discussing these urges.

Based on the information currently available, JH would be best managed by another support or safeguarding service. The concerns are related to specific vulnerabilities and potential violence against particular individuals – their family. There is possibly an interest in extreme violence which may justify further observation, but currently no evidence to suggest JH is accessing related violent or ‘gore’ content’ or on a pathway to terrorism.

### **CASE STUDY 6**

TA, a 42-year-old, came to attention of local policing when he was arrested for threatening violence against minority communities in public.

Policing made a Prevent referral when they found TA also owned flags with Nazi symbolism. Concerns were raised about TA’s online behaviour – posting that they wanted to recruit people to the white supremacist cause to ‘fight back’ against religious and ethnic minority communities, which TA refers to as ‘vermin’ and ‘invaders’.

TA was accepted on Channel for support. Sessions with an Interventions Provider helped TA to explore other ideas, and to express political views and concerns in a productive and non-violent way. TA also received support with anger management. The Channel panel also helped strengthen factors to protect TA from being drawn into terrorism, such as building closer relationships with supportive family members.