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## Chapter 5 – The Prevent Duty

### Introduction

The University takes its responsibilities for the prevention of terrorism and extremism very seriously and this policy sets out its approach in response to the Government's publication of its Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2015 and the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 s 29.

The Prevent Duty is concerned with preventing people being radicalised or drawn into terrorism or drawn into supporting terrorism, by challenging extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by extremist or terrorist groups. It means intervening to stop people moving from extremist (albeit legal) groups into terrorist-related activity. Terrorism is defined as the use or threatened use of violence for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause. Extremism is defined as 'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'. Also included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces.

Amongst the University's values are a commitment to inclusivity and creativity. These require an environment where academic freedom and freedom of speech underpin educational activity and where bigotry, violent and non-violent extremism and hatred have no place. The University is committed to ensuring vulnerable individuals are safeguarded from being drawn into terrorism and extremism.

### Senior management and governance of the Prevent Duty

The University Secretary and the Director of Strategic Delivery has responsibility on behalf of the Executive for ensuring the University's proactive engagement with the Prevent Duty and will be accountable to the Board of Governors for institutional compliance with the Duty.

The Head of Student Services is the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and has responsibility for the implementation of the safeguarding aspects of the Prevent Duty. Any concerns in relation to an individual at the University who is believed to be at risk of radicalisation or has expressed extremist views should be referred to the Head of Student Services.

The Board of Governors (or a delegated committee of the board) will receive the Annual Prevent Duty Risk Assessment and Action Plan as well as a report of:

- statistics related to Channel cases considered/referred and accepted as part of the annual report on safeguarding;
- meetings and speakers escalated to the highest level;
- training in relation to Prevent;
- any serious or significant concerns or incidents connected with the Duty.

A member of the Board of Governors has been given specific responsibility for oversight of safeguarding at the University and this will encompass the Prevent Duty.

### Partnership

In complying with the Prevent Duty, the University will actively engage with appropriate support networks, external agencies and other partners involved in compliance. This will include amongst other things:

- regular contact with Prevent Network Co-ordinator;
- regular attendance at Prevent Network Meetings;
- liaison with Police, local authority and other agencies including the Office for Students (OfS);
- sharing of practice and information as appropriate with the above.

### Risk Assessment

The University will undertake an annual risk assessment in relation to the risks of radicalisation taking particular account of its location, socio-economic and multi-ethnic student profile, subject and other contexts. The University Secretary and the Director of Strategic Delivery is responsible on behalf of the Executive for ensuring this risk assessment is undertaken and that it addresses all aspects of the Prevent Duty. Sub-registers in relation to particular factors within the Prevent Duty guidance will be reviewed and updated annually.

### Action Plan

The Executive is responsible for ensuring that an Action Plan is in place addressing any issues identified in the Risk Assessment. The University Secretary and the Director of Strategic Delivery will work with other members of the Executive and relevant heads of department to ensure policies, procedures and arrangements when appropriate address the Prevent Duty requirement and are implemented. The Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### Student Engagement and Student Union

The University is committed to engaging its student body and engaging with the Students' Union (RSU) in the development and co-creation of policy, particularly when it impacts on their student experience. RSU will be engaged in the development of its policies, procedures and arrangements in relation to Prevent through RSU Representation on Academic Board, its sub-committees and the Board of Governors.

An update on the Prevent Duty and changes in the arrangements being put in place at the University will be given to the Student Parliament. RSU will be involved in any future review or updating of these arrangements.

The RSU's constitution has been reviewed and is fit for purpose in respect of the requirements of the Prevent Duty. RSU is not an independent legal entity or a charity in its own right. For that reason, it and its constituent societies, is subject to the Duty in the manner of any constituent part of the University.

### **Training**

The University will ensure that staff and students are made aware of the process for referring concerns regarding students at risk of being drawn into extremism or terrorism are referred internally. It will ensure that the following key layers of staff are trained in relation to Prevent related policies and procedures:

Student Services staff as they are involved in the welfare and safeguarding of the student body;

Course Leaders as they are best placed to identify students vulnerable to radicalisation and/or at risk of being drawn into terrorism;

Timetabling and Event staff who may be involved in facilitating meetings;

front of house and security staff to ensure those involved in the physical security of the institution's estate have an awareness of the Prevent Duty;

Ravensbourne Students' Union (RSU) Officers as an influential layer in the student body.

The Head of Student Services and the Human Resources department will consult and deliver an annual course of training in relation to radicalisation, extremism and the Safeguarding arrangements in place at the University.

### **Safeguarding, Welfare and Pastoral Care**

Radicalisation and extremism have been incorporated into the University's Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures found [here: https://ravensbourne.ac.uk/asset-bucket/prod/2021-05/safeguarding-children%2C-young-people-vulnerable-adults-policy.pdf](https://ravensbourne.ac.uk/asset-bucket/prod/2021-05/safeguarding-children%2C-young-people-vulnerable-adults-policy.pdf).

The Head of Student Services is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and as such is the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the implementation of the safeguarding aspects of the Prevent Duty.

Where a student or staff member has concerns that another student is expressing violent extremist views or is at risk of being drawn into violent extremism, these concerns should be referred to the Head of Student Services or any Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) listed in the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

The Head of Student Services will offer confidential advice and guidance to staff in such cases on dealing with the issues reported, investigate further if it is believed necessary and/or arrange an intervention by Student Services. The Head of Student Services in evaluating a case may seek such advice from external professionals and agencies (e.g. Prevent Network Co-ordinator, Channel Panel) as is necessary and appropriate.

It is anticipated that in most cases the intervention would be supportive and safeguarding in nature. However, in some cases, within the safeguarding procedure, the Head of Student Services having evaluated the case in hand, and depending on the circumstances or level of concern, may refer a case to appropriate external agencies (e.g. the Channel Panel for the local authority or the police). In most cases, referral or information sharing will involve the consent of the student about whom the concern has been raised. However, it may involve the disclosure of personal information without consent of the subject in certain conditions (for example for the purposes of the prevention and detection of a crime). In such cases, the Head of Student Services will brief the University Secretary and the Director of Strategic Delivery who will keep a confidential note of the case.

In the most serious cases, a report to the police may be required because there are serious and immediate issues of safety to the student or others, and/or there is evidence to suggest a criminal act may be committed or has been committed. Normally, (if time allows) the University Secretary and the Director of Strategic Delivery will be briefed before such action and will inform the Head of Facilities if there are security issues internally. If there is a prima facie case or evidence to suggest that the report may constitute a 'serious incident' (as defined by OfS), the Vice-Chancellor will be informed and will report the incident to the Chair of Board of Governors and OfS will be informed in line with OfS Regulatory advice 16: reportable events.

The University Secretary and the Director of Strategic Delivery will report on an annual basis to the Board of Governors on concerns about the types and quantity of Prevent related concerns at the institution.

Student Services offer a range of welfare, information, advice and guidance and support services for students. These are important in ensuring that students who are vulnerable to extremist ideology by reason of personal disadvantage or circumstances for which they are not receiving support.

The University offers access to the Greenwich Peninsula Multi-Faith Chaplaincy and to a non-denominational 'Quiet Space' for prayer and contemplation. This space is not used for meetings or organised worship. The 'Quiet Space' is supervised by Student Services to ensure that it is used appropriately.

#### **External speakers and events**

The University has in place policies and procedures for managing controversial events, speakers and activities on campus and the use of premises. All those involved in the organisation and facilitation of events and activities will be trained and required to adhere to the Procedure on Controversial Meetings and Speakers which can be found in Section 13, Chapter 4.

The University campus is secure. ID badges are mandatory for staff, students and visitors. Visitors must be signed in by a member of staff. Visitors for students must be signed off by a member of staff.

#### **Information Technology Policies**

Information Technology (IT) policies should be regularly reviewed and revised to take account of the Prevent Duty. In particular, the University has stated explicitly its right to filter and monitor internet searches and site visits.

Arrangements are in place via the General and Research Ethics Policy in the event of there being a legitimate academic need for a student or staff member to access a sensitive or filtered site.

#### **Information Sharing**

The University will adhere to its Data Protection Policy and the requirements of the Data Protection Act, in sharing information within the safeguarding process, except when there is sufficient concern with a student's behaviour and the risk they potentially pose that it is necessary to share these concerns with external agencies. In sharing such information with external agencies:

The University will share only sufficient and relevant information in order to allow the concern to be appropriately followed up. The University will keep confidential records of the information shared in accordance with the Data Protection Act (2018).

The University will share non-personal information more generally with the Prevent Network and Peer institutions including information in respect of controversial meetings, activities and speakers.

#### **Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech**

The University has put in place robust arrangements for ensuring freedom of speech within the law and academic freedom on campus. These are contained in Section 13, Chapters 1 and 2.

It is recognized that there may be circumstances when a staff member or student might potentially engage in academic activity or research that is by its nature legitimate but open to misinterpretation (e.g. accessing a sensitive or extremist website for the purpose of research). In line with the General and Research Ethics Policy, the student should bring the activity to the attention of a member of academic staff in advance while staff should bring it to the attention of the Course Leader, Programme Director, Dean or Deputy Vice-Chancellor, as appropriate, so that it can be evaluated in advance and appropriate measures and safeguards put in place.