

Prevent Policy

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Aim

This policy sets out iMeta’s commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Prevent Duty, as defined by the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, by safeguarding adult learners, including those who may be vulnerable, from the risks of radicalisation and extremism. Prevent is embedded within iMeta’s wider safeguarding framework to ensure learners are supported, protected and able to engage safely in learning and wider society.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Promote awareness and understanding of radicalisation and extremism within an adult learning context
- Ensure staff are trained and confident in identifying, responding to, and reporting Prevent-related concerns
- Safeguard adult learners from being drawn into terrorism through early identification, support and referral
- Ensure compliance with statutory responsibilities under the Prevent Duty and associated guidance for Further Education and Independent Training Providers

Policy Context

The Prevent Strategy, first introduced in 2010 and updated as part of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST), recognises that individuals may be vulnerable to radicalisation for a range of personal, social or environmental reasons.

Extremist ideologies may seek to influence individuals through political, religious, ideological, sexist or racist narratives that promote intolerance, exclusion or violence. iMeta recognises radicalisation as a safeguarding concern and addresses it through proportionate, risk-based and inclusive practice.

This policy supports early intervention and multi-agency collaboration where concerns arise, including engagement with Channel, Police and safeguarding partners, to reduce vulnerability and prevent harm.

The Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty requires specified authorities, including education and training providers, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

At iMeta, Prevent is understood as a safeguarding responsibility focused on support and protection, not surveillance or restriction of lawful views.

The duty does not seek to prevent adult learners from holding or expressing political or religious beliefs. Instead, it aims to ensure that learners are supported to express and explore views in lawful, non-violent and democratic ways, consistent with British values.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is the process by which an individual comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorist activity. Adult learners may become vulnerable due to factors such as isolation, personal crisis, mental health challenges, social exclusion, financial pressure or identity-related concerns.

Extremism, as defined by the Government, is vocal or active opposition to British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calls for violence against individuals or groups, including members of the armed forces.

iMeta recognises that while the UK faces an ongoing and varied terrorist threat, the majority of learners will never engage in extremist activity. Prevent-related interventions are therefore proportionate, supportive and focused on addressing underlying vulnerabilities, which may include wellbeing, substance misuse or relationship issues.

Responding to Concerns

iMeta is alert to changes in behaviour, communication or engagement that may indicate a learner requires support.

Where concerns arise:

- Any member of staff who is concerned that an adult learner may be vulnerable to radicalisation must report this promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)
- The DSL will assess concerns and determine appropriate action, including advice, internal support or referral to external agencies

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- Records are stored securely and managed in line with data protection legislation
- Staff will act professionally and sensitively, avoiding assumptions or leading questions
- Learners will continue to be supported and welcomed during any assessment or investigation process
- Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis only, in line with safeguarding and Prevent guidance

Channel

Channel is a voluntary, multi-agency safeguarding programme led by Police Counter-Terrorism Units. It provides early support to individuals identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

The Channel process aims to:

- Identify individuals at risk of radicalisation
- Provide tailored, proportionate support to reduce vulnerability
- Safeguard individuals before risks escalate

iMeta will cooperate fully with Channel and relevant authorities in accordance with Section 38 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Participation in Channel remains voluntary at all stages.

Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL has overall responsibility for safeguarding and PREVENT arrangements at iMeta, including:

- Managing Prevent-related concerns and referrals
- Liaising with external agencies and safeguarding partners
- Ensuring staff training and policy compliance

Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Remaining vigilant to Safeguarding and PREVENT concerns
- Completing Prevent training as required
- Reporting concerns promptly and appropriately

Key Contacts

- Anti-Terrorist Hotline (Police): 0800 789 321
- National Prevent Advice Line: 0800 011 3764
- ACT Early: ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation