

Prevent Strategy for Surrey

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015 and states a specified authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.’ For Surrey this means that the Surrey County Council has a duty to lead the coordination of local partners in actively preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Agenda

The government’s counter terrorism strategy is known as CONTEST (2011). There are four strands to CONTEST of which Prevent is one. The strands of the strategy are as follows:

Pursue: is concerned with the apprehension and arrest of any persons suspected of being engaged in the planning, preparation or commission of a terrorist act.

Prevent: is concerned with working with partners to reduce support for terrorism of all kinds, challenging and isolating extremists whose views are shared by terrorist organisations and challenging and isolating extremists operating on the internet.

Protect: aims to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack and reduce our vulnerability to such attacks. This involves managing the risks to crowded places and the safeguarding of hazardous materials.

Prepare: seeks to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This included work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase our resilience so we can recover from its aftermath.

The purpose of the Prevent strategy (2011) is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Whilst the percentage of people willing to support violent extremism in the UK is small evidence identifies that terrorist and violent extremist organisations exploit vulnerabilities to spread their rhetoric and gain support. The UK government has identified factors that may lead to individuals supporting and/ or engaging in terrorist related activity. Understanding and targeting these factors is crucial to prevent radicalisation and minimise the risks it poses to the national security.

The Prevent Strategy aims to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation, which we need to address.

Terrorism in the UK context

The Prevent strategy (2011) identified 4x types of terrorism that the UK faces, these being:

- **International**, the most significant current threat comes from Al Qa'ida its affiliates and like minded organisations.
- **Northern-Ireland related**, although the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the prevent principles are applicable.
- **Extreme right-wing**
- **Other**, these are often small movements in reaction to a single issue, a specific incident, or ideology

Tackling extremism in the UK (2013) highlighted a number of key public institutions where extremists can take advantage and share their ideology with others. The Government also identified, through the extremism task force (2014), that it needed to do more to address extremism in locations where it can exert control, these include:

- Schools
- Universities and further education
- Prisons

Locally the prevent partnership group shares a responsibility to monitor these areas and implement preventative initiatives where necessary.

Local management of Prevent

Across Surrey the County Council's Community Safety Team will coordinate the Prevent strategy. The Prevent duty guidance published alongside the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets an expectation that the coordinator will:

- Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate prevent activity.
- Use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
- Engage with Prevent coordinators, schools, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and others as part of the risk assessment process.
- Mainstream the prevent duty so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the authority, in particular children' safeguarding.
- Any local authority that assesses, through the multi-agency group, that there is a risk will be expected to develop a Prevent action plan.
- Ensure frontline staff have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.

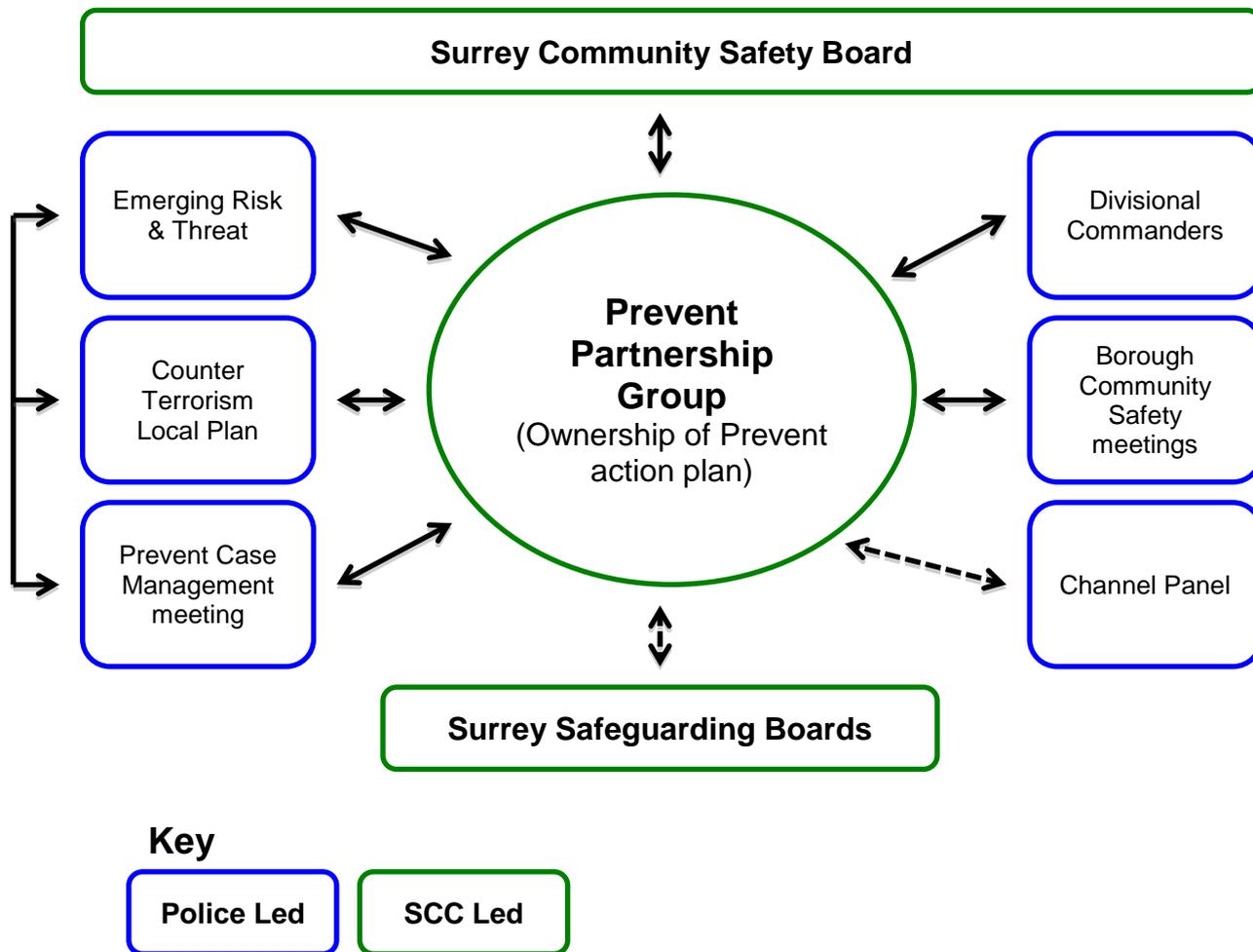
The coordinating authority responsible for the Prevent Partnership Group carries the following responsibilities:

- Organise and facilitate a multi-agency Prevent Partnership group
- Act as local experts for strategy and delivery
- Develop and manage the local Prevent strategy
- Devise and implement projects
- Work in partnership with other sectors and the community, with outreach where these groups are less engaged

To this effect the Community Safety Team as coordinator has identified key organisations to form part of this panel. The panel will consist of representation from:

- Prisons/ Criminal Justice
- Surrey Police
- Education/ Higher education
- Health and Social Care
- Community safety leads
- Fire and Rescue service

The Prevent Partnership Group lives within a wider system of governance, forums and meetings all of which play a key role in delivering Prevent. The diagram below illustrates how the prevent work interacts with existing forums.



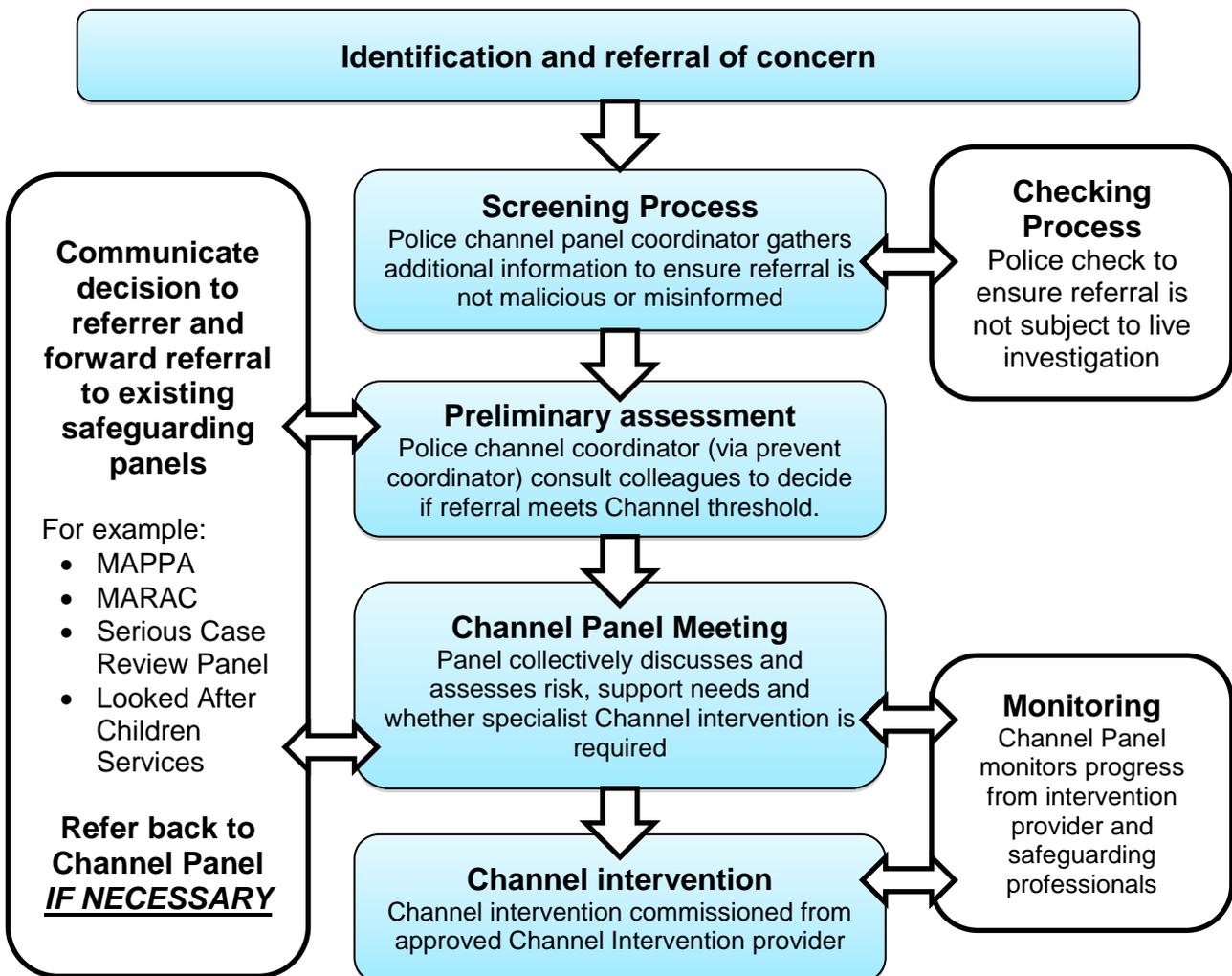
Channel Panel

The Channel process is essentially a safeguarding programme aimed at supporting individuals identified as vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist related activity. As with other safeguarding practices Channel is reliant on a multi agency response and multi disciplinary work to minimise and manage the risk to an individual. Channel is voluntary and so the individual must provide consent. It draws on existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners and the local community and has three objectives:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into radical extremism
- Assess the nature and extent of the risk
- Develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) provides a statutory framework for a joint local authority/ police panel to assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and to put in place a support plan. This effectively places Channel on a statutory footing. The Act sets out that these panels are to be chaired by the responsible local authority, which across Surrey is the Community Safety Team.

The diagram below illustrates the Channel Panel process:



Should you have any concerns about an individual being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist related activity you should discuss your concerns, in the first instance, with your line manager or the Safeguarding Lead for your organisation. They will be best placed to escalate concerns to the appropriate people in your organisation, and onto the Surrey Police Prevent Team if necessary; or you can:

- Contact the Prevent Team at Surrey Police by dialling 101
- Report your concerns anonymously to CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111
- Call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321

Work that will be complete by September 2015

As the new owner of Prevent the Community Safety Team pledges to complete the following by September 2015:

- Establishment of Prevent Partnership Group.
- Channel Panels reviewed and new processes implemented.
- Terms of reference submitted for all new forums.
- Distribution, evaluation and review of Prevent questionnaire from each key partner.
- Branding and any other required communications work.
- Work to establish and identify a relationship with neighbouring authorities.