

PREVENT POLICY



Accountancy Learning Ltd (incorporating Accountancy Learning Distance Learning Ltd and Accountancy Learning Innovations Ltd)

Introduction

Accountancy Learning takes all reasonable steps to promote and safeguard the welfare of all individuals engaged in any activity. There are robust safeguarding arrangements in place at Accountancy Learning offices within the Group and at the premises of our partners. These arrangements are regularly reviewed to keep all learners safe. Accountancy Learning is committed to the promotion of an inclusive learning community which does not allow any individual or group of individuals to be marginalised, stigmatised or excluded.

We have a responsibility to promote values of openness and respect and to facilitate free debate which is characteristic of being a British citizen.

In accordance with our standard practice the Accountancy Learning Prevent Policy will be updated annually in line with emerging government information, advice and guidance or before that should the necessity arise.

Government Policy

Section 21 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The government’s Prevent Strategy was published in 2011 and forms part of an overall Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. CONTEST has four elements which are detailed below:

- Pursue
- Protect
- Prepare
- Prevent

Prevent is the key part of CONTEST which aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of Prevent in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity as Prevent happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting individuals who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The 2011 Prevent Strategy objectives are as follows:-

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

The government’s Prevent Strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and target not only violent extremism but also non-violent extremism which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise the views which terrorists exploit. Extremism in itself is not illegal but it can act as a ‘pathway’ to terrorism. Prevent does not aim to criminalise people for holding extreme views; instead, it seeks to stop individuals from encouraging or even committing violent activity.

The United Kingdom currently faces a range of terrorist threats. All terrorist groups who pose a threat to the UK seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. A system of threat levels has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The current government threat level from international terrorism in the UK is **severe** which means that a terrorist attack is a strong possibility.

“Experience tells us that the threat comes not just from foreign nationals but also from terrorists born and bred in Britain. It is therefore vital that our counter-terrorism strategy contains a plan to prevent radicalisation and stop would-be terrorists from committing mass murder.....we will prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support. We will build on the successful multi-agency ‘Channel’ Programme, which identifies and provides support for people at risk of radicalisation.”

Definitions

For the purposes of this document the following definitions have been adopted. *Radicalisation* is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, then participate in terrorist groups.

Extremism is 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.

In the common Inspection Framework September 2015 inspectors make their judgement on safeguarding under the Effectiveness of Leadership and Management based on whether “learners are suitably protected from the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism”.

Key Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents and guidance

Accountancy Learning Policies and Procedures:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- IT security Policy
- Social Media Policy

External documentation:

- [Prevent Duty Guidance](#) – March 2016
- [Channel Duty Guidance](#) – April 2015
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) – September 2018
- [HM Government Prevent Strategy](#) (2011)
- [The role of Further Education Organisations in Preventing Violent extremism: Next Steps](#) (DIUS 2009)

Aims and Objectives

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The aim of the Accountancy Learning Prevent Policy is to ensure that we are able to monitor, manage and deal effectively with the threat posed by any individual or group of individuals engaging in violent extremism in the name of ideology or belief.

1. To develop staff and freelancers' knowledge of Prevent.
2. To ensure that learners, all employees and freelancers of Accountancy Learning are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism and radicalisation.
3. To promote and reinforce shared values, to create space for free and open debate, and support the learner voice.
4. To document and recognise current practice across the company which effectively manages the risk of learners being exposed to extremism and becoming radicalised.

Accountancy Learning Responsibilities

To ensure that Accountancy Learning effectively manage risks and is able to deal appropriately with issues around radicalisation and extremism the company will:

- understand the nature of the threat from extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the company;
- understand and manage potential risks within the organisation and from external influences including the display of extremist materials and the hiring of external premises;
- respond rapidly and appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on the organisation;
- ensure measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of extremism within the organisation; and
- ensure plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the organisation.

Teaching, Learning & supporting Learners

Accountancy Learning is committed to providing a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding in order to build the resilience of all learners, by undermining extremist ideology and supporting the learner voice. This will be achieved through:

- embedding equality, diversity and inclusion across the curriculum and promoting community cohesion;
- promoting wider skill development such as social emotional wellbeing, developing a curriculum which recognises local needs, challenges extremism and promotes universal rights;
- teaching and learning strategies which explore controversial issues in a way which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion; and
- the use of external organisations to support learning and promote respect.

To ensure that the organisation's community remains safe the following support will be in place for learners:

- effective support services which provide clear information, advice and guidance on preventing learners from being drawn into extremism and radicalisation;
- literature written in clear and simple language which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion and undermines extremist ideology;

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- support for learners and staff and guidance on how to access support through community partners;
- clear channels of communication to listen to the voice of the local community and understand local tensions;
- support for at risk learners through safeguarding and mentoring processes; and
- a focus on closing the achievement gaps for all learners.

Staff Responsibilities

The managing director of Accountancy Learning, Simon Deane, holds overall responsibility for ensuring that the Prevent policy is implemented across the company and any concerns are shared with the relevant organisations in order to minimise the risk of learners becoming involved with terrorism. He is assisted by the Designated Safeguarding Officer, Rosauro Aala and deputy designated safeguarding officer, Antonio Buendia Castro, in this task.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer will ensure that staff and learners are aware of the Prevent Agenda and appropriate training is in place.

All staff have been trained Prevent and Safeguarding Strategies.

All staff at Accountancy Learning have a responsibility to:

- provide an ethos which upholds the organisation's mission, vision and values and promote respect, equality and diversity and inclusion;
- report any concerns around extremism or radicalisation via the safeguarding reporting channels;
- report and remove any literature displayed around the organisation that could cause offense or promote extremist views;
- support the development of staff and learner understanding of the issues around extremism and radicalisation and participate in training when requested; and
- participate in engagement with local communities, schools and external organisations as appropriate.

Referrals

Where there is an identified/potential risk that a learner may be involved in supporting or following extremism, the risk will be reported through Channel as follows:

Devon and Cornwall Police - prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Somerset and Avon Police - channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

The Designated Safeguarding Officer is responsible for contacting the local Police or the local Children's Safeguarding Board/social services for further advice and guidance.

Any member of staff who identifies such concerns must report these to the Designated Safeguarding Officer or deputy as soon as possible for action – this will be recorded on the Safeguarding Report Form.

Incidents in relation to extremism are expected to be very rare but immediate action will be adopted when there is information that a violent act is imminent, or where weapons or other materials may be

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in the possession of a learner or a community member. In this situation, a 999 call will be made and the organisation's Senior Management team informed as soon as practicably possible.

Where a child or vulnerable adult is thought to be in need or at risk of significant harm or where investigations need to be carried out a referral to Social Services will be made in line with the organisation's safeguarding procedures following advice from the appropriate agencies.

Social services contact numbers for the region in which Accountancy Learning operates are as follows:

Exeter 0345 155 1071 or in the evenings 0345 600 0388
Plymouth 01752 668000 or in the evenings 01752 346984
Falmouth 0300 123 1116 or in the evenings 01208 251300
Taunton 0300 123 2224 or in the evenings 0300 123 2327

Training

- Training on PREVENT will be delivered as and when there is a necessity to ensure that all staff and freelancers have up to date information and briefings. This will be delivered by either the Designated Safeguarding Officer or partners known to the organisation – such as College of Policing PREVENT Channel training and prime contractors.
- All new staff to the organisation will receive Prevent training as part of their Induction programme, and certificates are kept by the Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- All staff and freelancers are asked to register with the Disclosure Barring Service.
- All staff and freelancers have been trained in understanding the Prevent and Safeguarding Strategies.
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer briefs staff and freelancers on the content of the statutory guidance – Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2018.

Further information for practitioners, support staff, managers and board members can be found on <http://www.preventforfeandtraining.org.uk/>