

The Prevent Duty – an introduction

1: Background

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 imposes a duty on “specified authorities”, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This has become known as the Prevent Duty.

In July 2015, the UK Government issued revised Prevent Duty guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales, which is available [here](#).

In September 2015, specific guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales was issued, and is available [here](#).

As an institution of higher education, The City College must therefore comply with Prevent Duty requirements.

2: Why are higher education institutions subject to the Prevent Duty?

Higher Education institutions commitment to freedom of speech and the rationality underpinning the advancement of knowledge means that they represent one of our most important arenas for challenging extremist views and ideologies.

3: What is terrorism?

The Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism as:

- The use or threat of action where it involves: serious violence against a person; serious damage to property; endangering a person’s life; serious risk to the health and safety of the public; serious interference/disruption of an electronic system
- The use or threat of action designed to influence the government (or an international governmental organisation) or to intimidate the public or a section of the public
- The use or threat is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

4: Radicalisation and extremism

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to 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.

5: What are British values?

British values, according to the Prevent duty, are defined as: “Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.”

6: What must The City College do?

The City College has perform a series of functions and activities, including

- Consult with students
- Train staff
- Share information with associated partners such as Hackney Prevent and the police
- Have a policy on external speakers that balances freedom of speech and academic freedom with keeping the college community safe
- Undertake a risk assessment

The Prevent Duty – an introduction

- Maintain an action plan
- Have a policy and procedures for the use of IT
- Provide support
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures imposed.

7: Vulnerability and terrorism

The Prevent Duty aims to safeguard people by providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorism. Various factors may make people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism including, for example:

- Being rejected by peer, faith or social group/ family
- Pressure from persons linked to extremism
- Victim or witness to race or religious hate crime
- Conflict with family over religious beliefs/ lifestyle/ politics
- Identity confusion
- Recent religious conversion
- Change in behaviour or appearance due to new influences
- Under-achievement
- Possessing literature related to extreme views
- Experience of poverty, disadvantage or social exclusion
- A series of traumatic events – global, national or personal.

8: Key drivers

Factors that may act as a driver might include:

- Being easily hurt or upset and susceptible to emotional injury
- Isolation
- Being in a place or situation that is separate from others
- Insecurity
- Lack of confidence - uncertainty and anxiety
- Injustice
- An unjust act – violate the rights of others
- Intolerance
- Unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behaviour that differs from own.

9: What's the real motivation?

The motivation is solely to keep each other safe and help and support those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism. This is entirely in accordance with other related college policies, such as the Equality and Diversity Policy, External Speaker Policy, Computer Access Policy and Social Networking Policy, and the Code of Conduct

10: What can you do?

If you have any concerns about anything you see or hear (eg. distribution of extremist literature, extremist comments on social media, visiting of extremist websites, spoken support for extremist views, extremist graffiti etc) then inform the Principal immediately or Mr Riaz. You can speak to them in person, email using principal@citycollege.ac.uk or nriaz@citycollege.ac.uk, or ring using 020 7253 1133.