

# Prevent Policy

## Our Commitment

A New Direction is committed to safeguarding all children and Young People that come into contact with our work. This includes safeguarding individuals from radicalisation and being drawn into terrorism.

We believe that all children and young people have an equal right to protection from abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect regardless of their age, race, religion and belief, ability, gender, language, background, or sexual identity and consider their welfare to be paramount.

## Key Safeguarding Roles

<b>DSL for ages 0-18:</b>	Rebecca Branch, Director of Education and Culture
<b>DSL for ages 18-30:</b>	Oliver Benjamin, Director of Employment and Skills
<b>Deputy DSL – Operational:</b>	Steve Moffitt, CEO
<b>Senior Trustee Lead for Safeguarding:</b>	Arfa Butt, Chair of Trustees

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<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)		
<b>Version:</b>	1.0	<b>Approved:</b>	29/10/2024
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<b>Next review due:</b>	September 2025		

We review this policy on an annual basis or in the event of a serious safeguarding incident taking place. Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads if you need support understanding the policy or have suggestions for improvement.

## I. Quick Guide: Reporting Procedure

A New Direction is committed to safeguarding all children and Young People that come into contact with our work. This includes safeguarding individuals from radicalisation, which is a type of abuse, and being drawn into terrorism.

If you have any concerns, here is a summary of our reporting procedures as outlined in our [Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#):



- Allow the child or adult to share their concerns.
- Discuss your concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or, in their absence, the Deputy DSL). This discussion should focus on:
  - The nature of the concerns
  - The risks to the child or adult
  - Whether consent has been secured in the case of an adult – any issues around this
  - The child's wishes and feelings in the case of a child
  - Action/ next steps
- Concerns should be discussed with the DSL in the same working day; your line manager should also be informed.
- Ensure detailed written records are made of all events and what the child or adult has said when applicable; sign and date the records.



- If you decide from your discussions that the concerns should be referred on, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL should, within one working day, make the referral to the relevant local authority safeguarding referral point over the phone and follow this up in writing.
- Where there are serious concerns to a child's or adult's immediate safety, act straight away (i.e. as soon as possible on the same day) via the CEO if necessary, and inform the local authority emergency duty team at children's or adult social care. Alternatively, inform the police. Delaying the process may place the child or adult at further risk.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline our approach to fulfilling our safeguarding responsibilities under the Prevent duty.

This policy should be read alongside our [Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure](#), which includes full details about roles and responsibilities, operational practices to ensure safeguarding, training and the procedure to raise a concern.

This policy provides supporting guidance on how to identify and raise a concern about an individual at risk of radicalisation.

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and partners working with A New Direction. It covers all activities and interactions involving children and young people within our charity.

## 4. Understanding the Prevent Duty

### 4.1 - What is the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent duty is part of the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy, known as CONTEST. Prevent is a national safeguarding programme that supports people who are at risk of becoming involved with terrorism through radicalisation.

The stated aims of Prevent are to:

1. Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
2. Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
3. Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

The Prevent duty requires specified authorities, including education providers, to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

### 4.2 - Why is the Prevent Duty Important for A New Direction?

Through the delivery of our Employment and Skills programmes, A New Direction is a registered independent further education provider. The Prevent duty requires further education providers to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism."

As a charity working with children and young people, A New Direction has a legal and moral obligation to safeguard the welfare of people engaging with our work. Our full commitment and procedure for this are detailed in our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure.

By implementing the Prevent duty, we aim to:

- Safeguard individuals from the risks of radicalisation and extremism.
- Promote a safe and inclusive environment.

- Ensure that everyone who works with children and young people on our behalf is equipped to recognise and respond to signs of abuse or harm, including radicalisation.
- Collaborate effectively with external agencies to provide support and interventions for those at risk.

### 4.3 - Useful Definitions

**Radicalisation:** The process by which individuals come to support terrorism and extremist ideologies. This can involve adopting extreme political, social, or religious beliefs that reject or undermine fundamental British values.

**Extremism:** 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. Extremism can be violent or non-violent.

**British Values:** Core values promoted by the UK Government, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** A designated individual within the organisation responsible for managing and responding to safeguarding concerns, including those related to the Prevent duty.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Everyone who works at A New Direction** is required to read and comply with our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure, which details the procedure that should be followed to raise a concern about radicalisation, and complete annual safeguarding training.
- **Those in specific programme delivery roles** are further required to complete specific Prevent training.
- **Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)** hold strategic and operational oversight of safeguarding at A New Direction. They are the main point of contact for all safeguarding concerns, including Prevent-related concerns, and ensure appropriate actions are taken.

Please see the [Safeguarding Policy](#) for a full description of safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

## 6. Implementing the Prevent Duty

A New Direction implements its Prevent Duty through the procedures, code of conduct and strategic and operational practices outlined in our [Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure](#). All staff and volunteers must follow the process outlined in the full Safeguarding Policy and Procedure to implement the Prevent duty effectively.

This includes:

### 1. Training and Awareness:

- Completing all required safeguarding training.
- Be aware of the common signs of radicalisation in children and young people (see appendix).
- Stay informed about the latest guidance and best practices.

## **2. Reporting Concerns (Referral Process):**

- Report any concerns to the DSLs following the procedure outlined in the Safeguarding Policy.
- The safeguarding lead will assess the concern and, if necessary, refer it to the appropriate external agencies.

## **3. Monitoring and Review:**

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the wider Safeguarding Policy review and updated as required.

A New Direction is dedicated to creating a safe environment for all children and young people. By adhering to the Prevent duty, following the processes outlined in our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure, we aim to protect our community from the risks of radicalisation and extremism.

## **Appendix: Common Signs of Radicalization**

There is no single route to radicalisation. There are some behavioural traits that could indicate a child has been exposed to radicalising influences or targeted by extremists.

While knowing and being able to recognise these signs is useful, it is important to remember that these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong.

### **1. Changes in Behaviour:**

- Withdrawal from usual activities and social groups.
- Increased secrecy, especially regarding online activities.
- Being unwilling to engage with people who they see as different.

### **2. Expressions of Extremist Views:**

- Advocating for violence or illegal actions.
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes or groups.

### **3. Changes in Appearance:** Sudden changes in dress or appearance, often to align with extremist ideologies.

### **4. Increased Isolation:** Spending more time alone or with a new group of friends who share extremist views.

### **5. Use of Extremist Language:**

- Using derogatory terms for certain groups or individuals.
- Justifying the use of violence to achieve ideological goals.

### **6. Online Activity:**

- Visiting extremist websites or engaging with extremist content on social media.
- Sharing extremist propaganda or materials.

- 7. Expressions of Grievance:** Expressing feelings of injustice or persecution that align with extremist narratives.

By being aware of these signs, you can help identify individuals who may be at risk and take appropriate action to support them.