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Channel Multi Agency Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose

To safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of radicalisation or recruitment for terrorism.

Channel is an early intervention process that seeks to protect, support, and divert people away from the risk they may face from being drawn into terrorist related activity.

Aims

Provide a multi-agency framework for assessing the nature and extent of risk for vulnerable individuals being exploited by those who may seek to radicalise them into terrorist-related activity.

To determine whether the Channel model would be an appropriate method of support for vulnerable individuals who have been referred.

Where appropriate, to offer and provide appropriate support through Channel that will steer vulnerable people away from supporting violent extremism.

To ensure that there is no discrimination in the assessment of cases and in the delivery of interventions on the grounds of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

To ensure the confidentiality of individuals is respected and where cases are not deemed appropriate for Channel – to sign these off at the earliest opportunity or refer to other appropriate safeguarding mechanisms.

Operation of the Group

The multi agency group will receive referrals of individuals from partner organisations or members of the community for whom there is a concern about radicalisation.

Cases will be initially assessed by the Channel Co-ordinator. For those referrals deemed to be high risk a 'Vulnerability Assessment Framework' will be completed. The framework for assessing referrals involves three dimensions: Engagement, Intent and Capability to become involved in violent extremist actions or terrorism.

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Where possible, each new Vulnerability Assessment Framework will be sent to the Channel Multi Agency Panel members prior to the Channel meeting.

Providing an accurate picture of the vulnerabilities of high risk cases will often require a professional to attend the Channel Multi Agency Panel meeting who has first-hand experience and contact with the individual.

In some circumstances it may only be possible to complete an accurate assessment after a period of time has elapsed and more information has become available.

The Vulnerability Assessment Framework provides a guide to vulnerability and risk. It should not be assumed that it will necessarily indicate that a person is either committed to terrorism or may become a terrorist.

If the referral is not deemed appropriate for CHANNEL it will exit the process or be referred to those services which are more appropriate to the vulnerable individual's needs.

Following the assessment the Channel Multi Agency Panel will determine whether support should be offered through the Channel process.

Should this be the case the Channel Multi Agency Panel will identify and secure resources to offer a relevant support package to the individual being referred.

Interventions are intended to divert those who are being drawn into terrorist activity and can include statutory, community or specialist interventions i.e. mentoring, counselling, theological support, encouraging civic engagement, development of support networks (family and peer structures) or providing mainstream services (education, employment, health, finance or housing).

Channel is based on the active engagement of the vulnerable individual and is at a non-criminal stage; therefore, appropriate consent should be obtained from the individual involved prior to a referral to Channel intervention.

The Channel Co-ordinator will continue to update the Vulnerability Assessment Framework until the individual exits the Channel process and make this available to the group members.

Each Channel case will be monitored regularly by the Channel Co-ordinator. In addition, there will be a 6 and 12 monthly review meeting once the referral has exited the process and where there is no current Channel intervention.

The group will clearly document agreed actions and plans to provide an audit trail for future reference

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Information sharing and confidentiality

All panel members will agree to sign an information sharing agreement, and abide by the terms of confidentiality assigned to the process.

Accountability

The panel will be accountable to the Local Authority Prevent Silver group.

Membership

The panel will include a senior member of staff from the Local Authority (Chair), a senior Officer from Humberside Police and the Channel Police Practitioner.

Membership may include representation from Partners to the Panel from;

- Local Authority Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards (Core member)
- Education
- Social Services
- Probation Service providers
- NHS Trusts, CCG's or NHS partners (Core member)
- Youth Offending Service
- Other organisations or charitable groups with specific knowledge of the case

Meetings

The panel will meet quarterly but may on occasion need to meet more often. The dates for the meetings will be set by the Local Authority Chair in conjunction with the Police.

