

The Prevent Duty Strategy 2023-24

Updated: September 2023

Prevent is a strand of the Government counter terrorism strategy – CONTEST. The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. This Prevent strategy seeks to:

- Respond and take swift remedial action where necessary to the ideological challenge of terrorism, aspects of extremism and the threats that we may face from those who promote these strong views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, multi-agency partners, faith, charities, the internet and health

Level of threat

A system of threat and level of risk have been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

1. Critical – an attack is expected imminently
2. Severe – an attack is highly likely
3. Substantial – an attack is a strong possibility
4. Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely
5. Low – an attack is unlikely

The current threat level from international terrorism in the UK is **SUBSTANTIAL (September 2023)** and therefore stringent precaution measures need to be respected and deployed to minimise risk to our learners, staff and visitors to our college.

The threat level from Northern Ireland – related terrorism in the UK is **SEVERE (September 2023)**.

Further Education colleges are major education learning and skills and training providers for the 16–25 year age group, particularly young people from ethnically diverse, and socially and economically disadvantaged areas. The age and profile of our students make it crucial to be extremely aware and involved in the Prevent strategy to embed safe good practice across the college. Colleges have a key part to play in fostering shared positive values and promoting a cohesive learning environment and society. Colleges should focus on the risks of violent extremism, which represents the greatest threat at national level, while recognising that other forms of violence and extremism can and do manifest themselves within colleges and other educational learning, skills and training settings.

This strategy has five key objectives that align with the Lakes College Prevent risk assessment and action plan. These objectives are:

1. To promote and reinforce shared values; to create space for free and open debate; and to listen, be tolerant and support the learner and staff voice.
2. To break down segregation among different learner communities including by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all learners in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society
3. To ensure staff and learner safety and that the College is free from bullying, radicalisation, potential extremist behaviour, risk, harassment and discrimination
4. To provide support for learners who may be at risk and appropriate sources of advice and guidance
5. To ensure that learners and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism In order to achieve these objectives the strategy will concentrate on four areas;

Leadership and Values

To provide an ethos which upholds Lakes College core values of **Ready Respectful Potential** for all learners, staff, governors, visitors and stakeholders. This will be achieved through:

- Sharing our core values in a manner that promotes mutual respect and tolerance, democracy in society, individual liberty and rule of law
- Developing staff and learner understanding of the issues and build confidence to deal with them
- Establishing and delivering a comprehensive training programme for staff, governors, employers and learners
- Widening engagement with local communities and community groups
- Raising awareness with parents and carers and those responsible for safeguarding the wellbeing of learners
- Actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies to ensure accurate intelligence is shared in accordance with agreed protocols

Teaching, Learning & Assessment

Develop and deliver a curriculum and provision which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding. Build the resilience of learners, by undermining extremist ideology by positively promoting equality, diversity, inclusion and Fundamental British Values. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting wider skill development such as the personal, social, behavioural and emotional aspects of learning
- Embedding inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion
- Delivery of a curriculum that is contextualised to recognise local need and potential risk, challenge extremist ideologies, promotes universal rights and Fundamental British Values

- Teaching, learning and assessment strategies which explore controversial and issues of extremism in a way which promotes critical analysis and pro-social values
- embracing the support of external programmes or groups to support learning while ensuring that the input supports college goals and values.
- Encouraging active citizenship, the learner, staff and employer voice.

Supporting our learners

By ensuring that all Lakes College staff are confident in taking preventative, positive and responsive steps when working with multi-agency and partner professionals, families and communities.

This will be achieved through:

- establishing strong and effective student support services to serve our learners and help them stay safe
- being vigilant to what is happening in the College and the community and any risks of extremism and or radicalisation
- implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviours
- Protecting learners and staff from potential cyber bullying and online grooming
- Helping learners and staff know how to access support in College and or through community partners
- Supporting 'at risk' and vulnerable learners through safeguarding, child protection and crime prevention processes
- Focusing on narrowing attainment gaps, providing strong support for all learners and a good learning experience which meets their learning aims, personal goals and career aspirations whilst staying safe
- Engaging with wider support agencies

Managing Risks and Responding to Events

To ensure that Lakes College monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. The college will do this through:

- understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the College
- work collaboratively with multi-agencies to share intelligence and key information
- Managing potential risks within the College and those posed by external influences
- responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on learners and communities
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremism within the College
- Ensuring plans and swift intervention processes are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College
- Develop and implement effective ICT security and responsible user policies