

PATHWAY FOR CHANNEL REFERRALS FOR BURY

This pathway should be read in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership policy on Safeguarding Children and Young People vulnerable to violent extremism (4.38)

INTRODUCTION

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.

Bury Council and Greater Manchester Police; agree that this exploitation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

This pathway is intended to provide a clear referral process for all professionals working with children for whom there are concerns that they or the young person's family are at risk of becoming involved in violent extremist or terrorist activity.

The pathway includes the link between safeguarding procedures and the Channel programme, and provides a mechanism for supporting those who may be vulnerable to violent extremism or terrorism by assessing the nature and the extent of the potential risk and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package.

PREVENT AND INDICATORS

Under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015, there have been a number of duties that have been placed on specified agencies. These duties are to support agencies in preventing young people from becoming involved in terrorist or extremist behaviour.

INFORMATION SHARING

There is a statutory duty for workers to share information where there are concerns about the safety or well being of a child or vulnerable adult.

REFERRAL PATHWAY

If, at any stage, it is felt that the individual poses an immediate danger to themselves or any other person, the police should be called immediately. Each agency will have a safeguarding lead who should be advised of any concerns in relation to protecting individuals; this will include radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

Once a concern is identified the safeguarding lead or designated person must contact either the Channel team or Children's Social Care Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice and guidance about the appropriateness of making a referral to MASH. Once a referral has been made to Children's Social Care this will then progress to the Channel Team who will identify whether threshold for service support is met.

If Channel identify that further involvement is required by Children's Social Care, they will refer back to MASH for a Child & Family Assessment, this will be completed alongside the Channel involvement.

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REFERRAL RESPONSE

Should a referral progress to a Channel case then the Channel team will make every effort to notify the referrer, where appropriate, of the outcome of involvement. If the referrer has not had feedback from the Channel team within 10 working days then the referrer should contact directly the Channel team.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EDUCATION

The DfE has launched a helpline for anyone concerned about a **child who may be at risk of extremism**, or about extremism within an organisation working with children and young people.

Email: **counter.extremism@education.gov.uk**

Telephone: 020 7340 7264

However, it is advised that the LA safeguarding lead is also contacted for local advice and support in such circumstances.

Channel Team – 0161 856 6362 / **Channel.project@gmp.pnn.police.uk**

Children's Social Care MASH – 0161 253 5678 / **Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk**