

SUFFOLK PREVENT STRATEGY

2024-27



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Foreword

Preventing Radicalisation is a challenging and complex issue that is not unique to Suffolk.

Suffolk remains a very safe place to live and visit and our threats and risks towards terrorism remain low, however, we continue to recognise the serious and devastating consequences radicalisation and terrorism has on people.

In the UK, delivery of early intervention support to people susceptible to radicalisation begins with referrals to Prevent. Anyone can make a Prevent referral and under the Prevent Duty, institutions including schools, colleges, universities, health authorities, local authorities, police and prisons must consider the risk of radicalisation as part of their day-to-day safeguarding work.

Providing early intervention to divert and safeguard individuals away from acts of terrorism demands strong partnership working. Suffolk's Safer Stronger Communities Board, Suffolk's Prevent Delivery Group and Channel Panel bring together a wide range of partners to respond to the identified local threats and risks.

Nationally, the Prevent agenda has seen some key changes with the release of the Independent Review of Prevent, the refresh of CONTEST (the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy) and the updated Prevent Duty Guidance which came into force on the 31st December 2023. As such, our Suffolk Strategy has been updated to reflect these changes and sets out our priorities for the next 3 years.

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton

Cabinet Member for Equalities and Communities

Suffolk County Council



Introduction

The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding adults and children by providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Prevent is one of the key pillars of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST¹. Its aim is to reduce the risk from terrorism in the UK, its citizens and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The four workstreams of CONTEST are:



Prevent **operates in a pre-criminal space**, providing support and re-direction to individuals at risk of being radicalised into terrorist activities before any crimes are committed.

Radicalisation

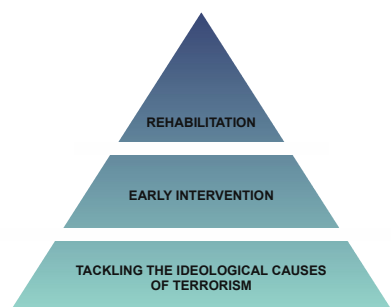
This is the process of a person subscribing to extremist ideology. There is no single profile of a radicalised person, nor is there a single pathway to being radicalised. There are many factors which can lead someone to subscribe to terrorist or terrorism supporting ideology. A person's susceptibility to radicalisation may be linked to their vulnerability.

¹ Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Prevent has three objectives in CONTEST:



Objective 1: Tackle the Ideological causes of terrorism.



The ideological component of terrorism is what sets it apart from other acts of serious violence.

Prevent focuses on reducing the influence of radicalisers on susceptible audiences, as well as reducing the availability of, and access to, terrorist content.

Prevent takes a partnership approach to disrupting radicalisers, including those who sow division and hatred, by working with a wide range of partners.

Objective 2: Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.

Prevent intervenes early by identifying people who are susceptible to radicalisation and providing support to those suitable for intervention.

Objective 3: Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Rehabilitation seeks to reduce the risk of people who have been involved in terrorist-related activity, including those who have been convicted of offences.

Threat and Risk

Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism but continues to ensure resources and efforts are allocated based on threat to our national security. In the UK, the primary domestic terrorist threat comes from Islamist terrorism.

Islamist Terrorism

This is the threat or use of violence to establish a strict interpretation of an Islamic society. For some this is a political ideology which visualises, for example, the creation of a global Islamic caliphate based on strict implementation of shari'ah law, drawing on political and religious ideas developed in the 20th century by Sayyid Qutb and Abdallah Azzam. Many advocates believe that violence (or 'jihad' as they conceive it) is not only a necessary strategic tool to achieve their aims but an individual's religious duty.

Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism

This describes those involved in Extreme Right-Wing activity who use terrorist violence to further their ideology. These ideologies can be broadly characterised as;

- Cultural Nationalism
- White Nationalism
- White Supremacism

Individuals and groups may subscribe to ideological trends and ideas from more than one category. Unlike Islamist terrorist groups, Extreme Right-Wing terrorists are not typically organised into formal groups with leadership hierarchies and territorial ambitions but informal online communities which facilitate international links.

Prevent also tackles other ideologies and concerns that may pose a terrorist threat. Established terrorist narratives exhibit common themes such as antisemitism, misogyny, antiestablishment, anti-LGBT grievances and religious or ethnic superiority.

Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism

This currently represents a significantly smaller terrorist threat to the UK than Islamist terrorism or Extreme Right-Wing terrorism and is not currently present in the UK at any significant scale. Most related activity in the UK has consisted of lawful protest, and where these have involved violence, it has resulted in offences relating to Public Order.

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack. The threat level for the UK from international terrorism is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) whilst MI5 is responsible for setting the threat levels from Irish and other domestic terrorism both in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain.

LOW	Attack is highly unlikely.
MODERATE	An attack is possible, but not likely
SUBSTANTIAL	Means an attack is likely
SEVERE	Attack is highly likely
CRITICAL	An attack is highly likely in the near future

In reaching a judgement on the appropriate threat level, several factors are taken into account including available intelligence, terrorist capability, terrorist intentions and timescale. The threat level expresses the likelihood of an attack in the near term. Some attacks take years to plan, while others are put together more quickly. In the absence of specific intelligence, a judgement will need to be made about how close an attack might be to fruition. Threat levels do not have any set expiry date but are regularly subject to review to ensure that they remain current.

In July 2019, changes were made to the terrorism threat level system to reflect the threat posed by all forms of terrorism, irrespective of ideology. There is now a single national threat level describing the threat to the UK, which includes Islamist, Northern Ireland, Left-Wing and Right-Wing terrorism.

At the time of writing this strategy, the current threat from terrorism is assessed to be at SUBSTANTIAL which means an attack is likely'. It was raised to CRITICAL twice in 2017 following the Manchester terrorist attack and the terrorist incident at Parsons Green station in London.

The recent assessment is available on: <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

The Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty requires specified authorities such as education, health, local authorities, Police and criminal justice agencies (probation and prisons) to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by having '*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*' in the exercise of their functions.

The Prevent Duty sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation. The Duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under other safeguarding processes.

Role of Local Authorities

With their wide-ranging responsibilities and democratic accountability to their electorate, local authorities are vital to Prevent work. All local authorities have a legal duty to deliver Prevent in their area

Role of Education

Educators are often in a unique position, through interacting with learners on a regular basis, to be able to identify concerning behaviour changes that may indicate they are susceptible to radicalisation. Over recent years there have been concerns regarding the increased numbers of learners being arrested for terrorism-related offences, and the increase of referrals relating to children and young people.

Role of Healthcare

Healthcare professionals have a key role in Prevent because they meet and treat people who may be susceptible to radicalisation. A person's susceptibility to radicalisation may be linked to them having underlying vulnerabilities, this could be wide ranging linked to personal, family or social circumstances.

Role of Police

The Police are uniquely placed to tackle terrorism and therefore play an essential role in most aspects of Prevent work. Working in partnership, they hold information which can help assess the risk of radicalisation and disrupt people engaged in radicalising others.

Role of Criminal Justice Agencies

Probation and Prison services are responsible for protecting the public and reducing reoffending. Included within this is their role in both working with people convicted of terrorism or terrorism connected offences and in preventing other people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

In fulfilling the Prevent Duty in Section 26 of the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(CTSA 2015\)](#)², it is expected that all specified authorities participate fully in work to prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by developing and maintaining appropriate:

- **Leadership and partnership working** to help them have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

² The CTSA 2015 became statutory on 1st July 2016, the statutory duty guidance was refreshed in September 2023, subject to Parliamentary approval it comes into force on 31st December 2023.

- **Capabilities** for understanding and managing risk through training and awareness raising and sharing information.
- **Reducing permissive environments**, both online and offline and to create an environment where radicalising ideologies are challenged and are not permitted to flourish.

Whilst each specified authority has this Duty, organisations and institutions are not expected to tackle the issue alone. Prevent work relies on effective partnership working and coordination of activity through a multi-agency forum.

Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group (PDG)

The Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group (PDG) is the multi-agency forum in Suffolk that co-ordinates the strategic and partnership approach to tackling extremism. It harnesses the knowledge, skills and resources of partner agencies across Suffolk, is chaired and supported by Suffolk County Council and meets quarterly. ([Appendix One: Terms of Reference](#)).

The PDG develops and oversees the Suffolk Prevent Strategy, Action Plan and Situational Risk Assessment. These are partnership documents supported by and contributed to by all the specified authorities within Suffolk. Specified authorities are also expected to have their own local delivery plans which complement the wider county approach. Authorities represented include:

- Suffolk County Council
- West Suffolk Council
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
- Ipswich Borough Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Suffolk Constabulary
- Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board
- Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board
- Suffolk New College
- University of Suffolk
- Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- West Suffolk College
- East Coast College
- Department for Education Prevent Coordinator
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- National Probation Service
- Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU)
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership
- Civil Nuclear Constabulary
- Home Office Regional Prevent Advisor

Partnership Action Plan

Every quarter, the Prevent Delivery Group assess the threats and risks identified in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and a partnership Action Plan is developed to set out the mitigating actions. The Action Plan is guided by the *Security Threat Check* principles. Security Threat Checks have been developed to ensure that Prevent delivery within the strategic Prevent Boards in the Home Office's Homeland Security Group and Counter Terrorism Policing is guided by threat, the principles of which have been adopted by Suffolk as best practice, to ensure that any decisions taken are proportionate to the risk of terrorism and radicalisation locally in Suffolk. This ensures there is a consistent and proportionate threshold applied to Prevent activity across all ideologies.

The set of principles are as follows:

Is this action mindful of the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?

Is this action proportionate when placed against the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?

Is this action likely to reduce the threat of terrorism or terrorist-adjacent narratives?

The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP)

Quarterly, Suffolk receives an assessment that articulates key threats, risks and vulnerabilities across the Eastern Region in relation to extremism in all forms, known as the CTLP. The document, produced by Counter Terrorism Policing, focusses on individual counties where isolated or emerging incidents of note have occurred and allows Suffolk to view our own individual threat and risk in relation to bordering forces, providing context and encouraging information sharing across the region.

The CTLP is not designed to provide a complete assessment of extremist concerns but seeks to raise awareness of current issues, providing information from which to determine priorities and support local Prevent Delivery plans and partnership work in Suffolk.

Situational Risk Assessment

Annually, Suffolk County Council on behalf of the PDG, produces a risk assessment which is reviewed against the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and other data sources, including local knowledge and understanding of Suffolk. Local Authorities and Suffolk Police contribute to the assessment. The risk assessment leads to an understanding of the risks of radicalisation to people, as well as the risks from radicalising influences. The risks identified are incorporated into the Partnership

Action Plan which enables partners to effectively target activity to prevent terrorism, disrupt radicalising influences and build resilience.

Training

Suffolk County Council delivers a bi-monthly training workshop for multi-agency frontline professionals on Prevent. The sessions are designed to increase awareness of Prevent, the process of radicalisation and the local referral route for Suffolk.

Specific training is also held by the responsible authorities across Suffolk. In the past 12 months, training has been delivered to front line Police officers, the wider health care setting, local authority front line officers, the education sector and elected members.

Since the introduction of the Prevent programme over 20,000 front line officers and partners in Suffolk have been trained in the principles of Prevent since its introduction in 2015. Many more have completed the e-learning modules created by the Home Office.

Suffolk has 15 active trainers from across the partnership arena of Suffolk who are available to raise awareness of Prevent. They are supported with up-to-date materials and presentations centrally by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police.

During 2023, Suffolk County Council in conjunction with Norfolk Office for Police Crime Commissioner were successful in a funding application to the Home Office Preventing Radicalisation fund which allowed for the delivery of 'media literacy and extremism training' to 84 parents and carers across the two counties.

Further opportunities to apply to the Home Office fund for joint delivery will be explored during future years.

Reducing Permissive Environments

Across Suffolk, partners work together to limit the potential access to radicalising narratives both online and offline, through a variety of ways such as IT policies, guidance for appropriate use of venues and visiting external speakers' guidance.

Home Office monitoring and assurance checks

All specified authorities must comply with the Duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) to ensure consistency and proportionate delivery. Suffolk County Council is benchmarked as part of an annual Home Office assurance programme to monitor our compliance with the Prevent Duty. In the 2023 assurance check, Suffolk County Council was observed to be exceeding or meeting the requirements of the Prevent Duty.

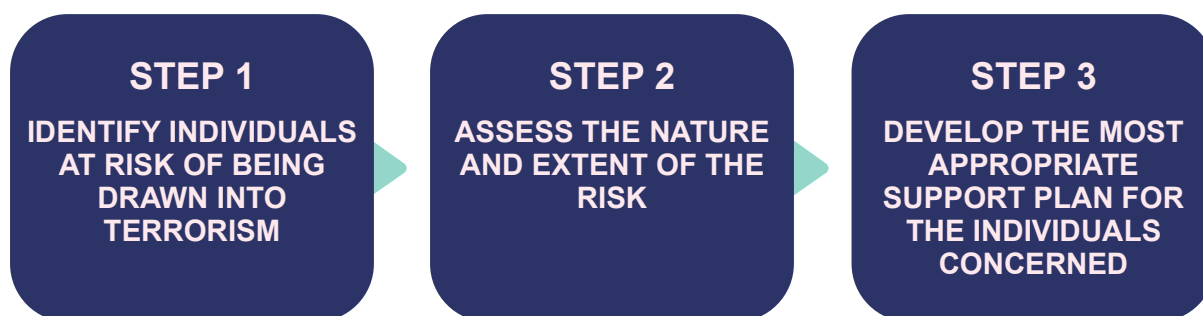
Channel Duty – protecting people susceptible to Radicalisation.

In addition to the Prevent Duty, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a Duty for Local Authorities to provide support for people susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. In England and Wales, this is achieved through the Channel Panel.

Section 36 CTSA 2015 sets out the Duty for local authorities to ensure that there is a local Panel in place to assess, and to provide support for, people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Channel provides early intervention to those who meet the Prevent threshold. Where the Police assess a radicalisation risk following a Prevent referral, a Channel Panel will meet to discuss the referral, assess the risk and decide whether the person should be accepted into Channel.

One objective of Prevent is to intervene early to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This means providing bespoke interventions for people who are susceptible to radicalisation through Channel. Channel uses a multi-agency approach to:



Channel provides early support for anyone who is at risk of radicalisation, supporting terrorist organisations, or committing acts of terrorism, regardless of age, faith, ethnicity or background.

The success of Channel is dependent on the co-operation and co-ordinated activity of partners. It works best when the person and their families engage and are supported consistently.

Channel works by partners jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual's needs.

Suffolk Channel Panel

The Suffolk Channel Panel meets monthly in a secure environment to discuss cases of concern. In Suffolk, the Channel Panel is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding for Children and Young People Services at Suffolk County Council. It reports into the Prevent Delivery Group.

Channel is about partnerships and communities working together to support vulnerable people at an early stage, it is not about reporting on individuals in order to prosecute them. See Appendix Two for the [Vulnerable to Radicalisation \(VTR\) Referral process](#).

Safer Stronger Communities Board

The Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) provides strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from a number of key priorities across Suffolk.

The Safer Stronger Communities Board meets quarterly and its membership is made up of senior elected members and officer roles, from a range of organisations including County, District and Borough Councils, Suffolk Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships and Integrated Care Boards.

It is supported by a Programme Office that oversees the delivery of issues that present the greatest threat, risk, and harm to Suffolk residents and reports regularly to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

The SSCB provides governance to both Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group and Suffolk Channel Panel ([SSCB Governance Structure: Appendix 3](#))

Further information

For further information about this strategy or the work undertaken in Suffolk relating to preventing radicalisation please contact: Community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk

PDG Terms of Reference (Appendix 1)

Prevent Delivery Group: Terms of Reference

Aim

To co-ordinate a strategic, system wide response to Preventing Radicalisation - fulfilling the Prevent Duty requirements contained in section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015:

The Prevent Duty requires that 'A specified authority³ must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. A specified authority is a person or body that is judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security.

Role of the group

1. Share information about the threat and risk levels of counter terrorism in Suffolk.
2. Use information from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) to inform the work of the partnership
3. Develop a partnership Prevent action plan incorporating activities from all of the partner organisations to demonstrate how each are meeting the Prevent Duty.
4. Monitor the impact and review progress made by each organisation for activities in the action plan.
5. Annually; develop / review:
 - a) a situational risk assessment
 - b) Assurance statement / benchmarking exercise
 - c) Channel Panel Assurance exercise.
6. Co-ordinate the delivery of training and awareness raising (such as the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) and bespoke training)
7. Report progress quarterly and escalate concerns to Safer Stronger Communities Board.

³ The specified authorities in Schedule 6 to the Act are **those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security** Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (legislation.gov.uk)

Frequency of Meetings

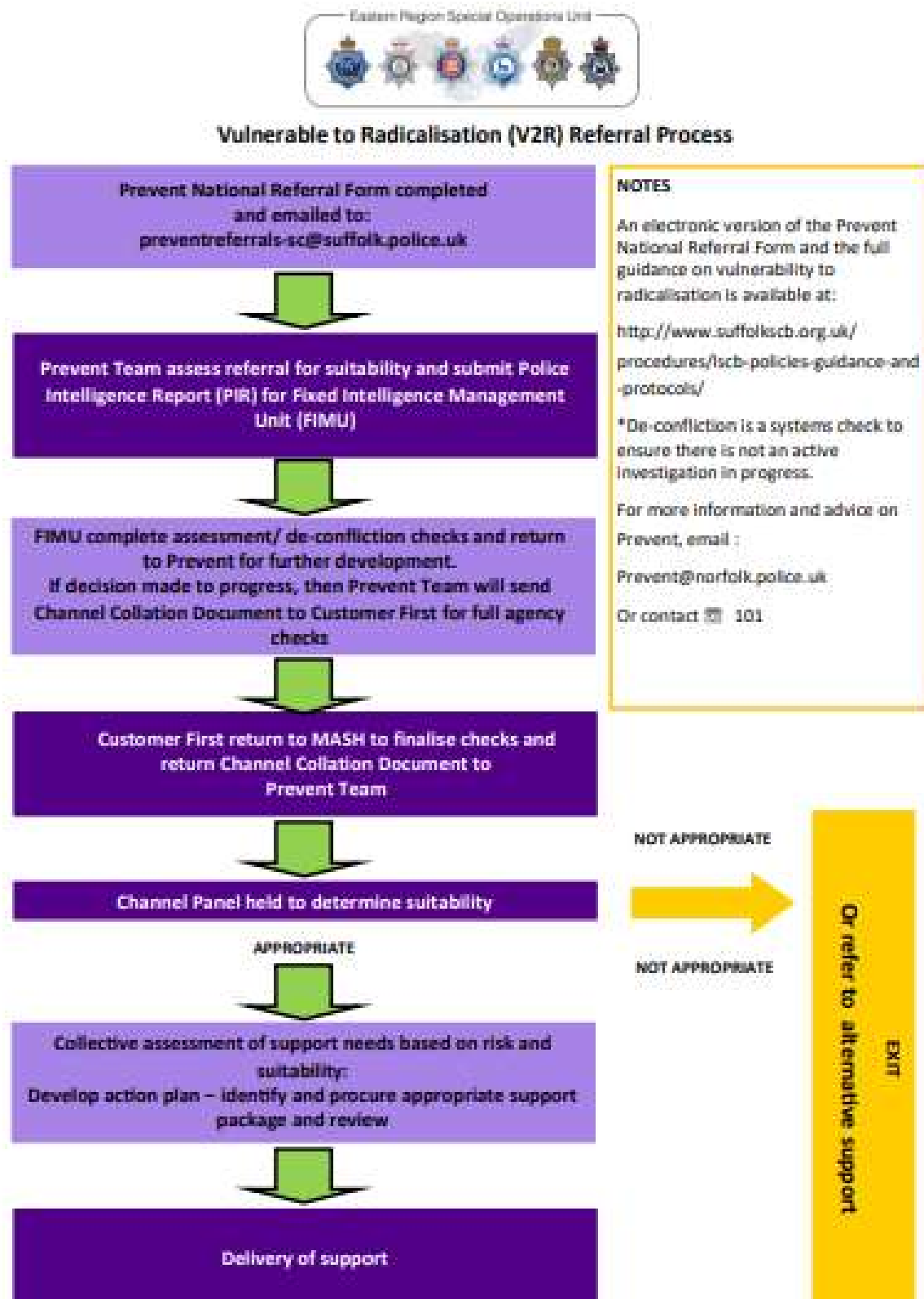
The group will quarterly or exception if required. The group may also establish “task & finish” groups to undertake particular pieces of work, which will then report back to the Prevent Delivery Group.

Membership

Senior Representatives from specified authorities in Suffolk such as:

- Suffolk County Council – **Chair**
- West Suffolk Council
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
- Ipswich Borough Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Suffolk Constabulary
- Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board
- Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board
- Suffolk New College
- University of Suffolk
- Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- West Suffolk College
- East Coast College
- FE/HE Prevent Coordinator – Dept for Education
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service
- Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU)
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership
- Civil Nuclear Constabulary

VTR Referral Process (Appendix 2)



SSCB Governance (Appendix 3)

Safer and Stronger Communities Governance

