

PREVENT STRATEGY

Introduction

This strategy has been created to outline the approach taken by Ruskin Mill Trust, and its subsidiary companies, Brantwood Specialist School, Clervaux Trust Limited and Transform Residential Limited in responding to the threat of terrorist activity within its provisions, and in light of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2016 (“the Act”), which requires us to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This builds upon the PREVENT Strategy published in 2011. Prevent is part of the Government’s overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, which aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom from international terrorism ‘so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

These forms of terrorism include:

- Far Right extremists
- Al-Qaida influenced groups
- Environmental Extremists
- Animal Rights Extremists ‘

CONTEST consists of the following four strands:

- Pursue - to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect - to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks
- Prepare - where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
- Prevent - to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

The Prevent strategy seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these 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, faith, charities, the internet and health

UK Threat Level

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

- Critical- an attack is expected imminently
- Severe - an attack is highly likely
- Substantial - an attack is a strong possibility
- Moderate - an attack is possible but not likely
- Low - an attack is unlikely

The current threat level from international terrorism in the UK is severe which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely.

Ruskin Mill Trust

Ruskin Mill Trust (the Trust) as an education provider for children from the age of 7 -18 years within its schools, and young people aged 16-25 within its Colleges, also provides long term residential care for those aged 16+. The Trust recognises that the children, young people and adults who it supports are potentially susceptible to radicalisation and so recognises that the Trust has a part to play in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion and the promotion of British Values.

This strategy has five key objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce shared values; to create space for free and open debate; and to listen and support the voice of the children, young people and adults who attend our provisions.
2. To break down segregation among different communities within the provisions including by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all our students and residents in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society including an understanding of British Values
3. To ensure safety of all children, young people and adults that attend our provisions and that all of our provisions are free from bullying, harassment and discrimination
4. To provide support for children, young people and residents who attend our provisions who may be at risk and appropriate sources of advice and guidance
5. To ensure that the children, young people and residents who attend our provisions as well as our 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 a clarity of understanding which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all students and residents, staff and visitors and promotes respect, equality and diversity and understanding. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation
- Building staff, student and resident understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them
- Deepening engagement with local communities
- Actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies

Teaching and Learning

To provide a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of students and residents, by challenging extremist ideology and supporting the learner or residents voice. This will be achieved through:

- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion
- Promoting wider skill development such as social and emotional aspects of learning

- A curriculum adapted to recognise local and individual needs, challenge extremist narratives and promote universal rights.
- Encouraging active citizenship/participation and learner and residents voice.

Student Support

To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partner professionals, families and communities. This will be achieved through:

- Establishing strong and effective support services for our students and residents
- Listening to what is happening across the provisions and the community
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour
- Helping students and staff know how to access support both within the provisions and through community partners
- Supporting at risk students and residents through safeguarding and crime prevention processes
- Focusing on narrowing the attainment gap for all students

Managing Risks and Responding to Events

To ensure that the Trust monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. It will do this through:

- Understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the Trust and its provisions across England and Wales
- Understanding and managing potential risks within the provisions and from external influences
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on students, residents and communities
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within the provisions.
- Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the provisions.
- Developing effective IT security and acceptable use policies
- Developing, maintaining and reviewing its Prevent risk assessment, and reviewing that of each local provision to ensure that there is appropriate understanding and actions taking place.

Delivering the Strategy

Evidence suggests that there is neither an obvious profile of a person who is likely to become involved in a terrorist related activity, nor a single indicator of when a person might move to support extremism. It is the case that anyone may be susceptible to radicalisation, and vulnerable individuals are particularly at risk.

Indicators of concern that staff may observe or identify in the behaviour of individuals may include:

- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting violent extremist messages or images
- Voicing radical ideology or the use of extremist or hateful terms to exclude others or incite violence

- The accessing of violent extremist material online, including social networking sites
- Individuals taking photos of shopping areas or trying to gain access to secure areas or buildings
- Parental/family reports of changes in behaviour or actions
- Identification during their time in the provision of a change in behaviour such as social withdrawal, or an unexpected interest in religion which is becoming extreme

Vulnerable individuals can be exploited in many different ways as a result of face to face contact, or indirectly through the internet, social networking or other media.

Radicalisation is a process, and there is no single route or pathway to radicalisation.

Access to extremist material is often through leaflets and local contacts although the internet plays an increasingly important role in the communication of extremist views. It provides a platform for extremists to promote their cause and encourage debate, and is a swift and effective mechanism for disseminating propaganda.

Ruskin Mill Trust will raise concerns about individuals being drawn into terrorism through their child and vulnerable adult safeguarding procedures and it is important that partner agencies pass on concerns no matter how insignificant they may appear.

There is no 'typical' person who could be immediately identified as a possible suspect planning a terrorist attack or trying to radicalise others.

Where an employee expresses views, distributes material, uses or directs others to extremist websites or promotes terrorism, partner agencies should follow their procedures in respect of managing allegations in the workforce.

Approved by the Board of Trustees February 2017

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