How can I **help?**

Family, friends and professionals are usually the first people to notice early warning signs that an individual is becoming involved in violent extremism.

Share your concerns about individuals you feel are susceptible to being drawn into violent extremist activity so that early, appropriate and effective support can be arranged. Likewise, report individuals or groups where it is felt extremism is being promoted.

Do you yourself feel as though you need help?

The 'Prevent' programme is about providing help and guidance to an individual who may be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism. It is not about enforcement but to encourage people to a different path.

What is already in place?

Practitioners in South Gloucestershire have a process in place to receive and respond to concerns of vulnerable individuals and potential offenders.

In addition, there is a voluntary multi-agency programme in place called 'Channel' which works to identify and reduce risks to individuals becoming radicalised. For more information see key contacts on how to get help.

Key **contacts**

South Gloucestershire Council

✉ **Preventproject@southglos.gov.uk**

🖥 **www.southglos.gov.uk/prevent**

📞 **01454 863844**

Police Prevent Referrals Team

📞 **0117 9455 539**
(9-5 Monday to Friday)
Out of hours: **Dial 101**

✉ **channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk**

🖥 **www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/ newsroom/features/preventing-terrorism-and-extremism**

Report online terrorist material

🖥 Home Office website:
www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

🖥 **www.counterterrorism.police.uk**

For general advice

🖥 **www.preventtragedies.co.uk**

🖥 **www.ltai.info**

🖥 **www.educateagainsthate.com**

Preventing
radicalisation
and extremism

in South Gloucestershire

INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITIES

South Gloucestershire
Council

Preventing
radicalisation in our communities

Prevent is part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy and is designed to help all vulnerable people from being exposed to radicalisation, reducing the potential for future involvement in activities which could harm others.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of violent extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes. Its primary goal is to bring people together from all agencies and members of the community, to offer support to an individual who is at risk of radicalisation, or to their family.

Key terms

Radicalisation - the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism

Ideology - a set of beliefs characteristic of a group or individual

Violent extremism - vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values (such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs,) leading to violence against groups of people or organisations.

Terrorism - a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

How to spot the
signs

Vulnerable people are often exploited in a similar way to a person being groomed. Promises are made to them of material rewards or of providing a sense of belonging to a group which can offer empowerment, glory and confidence. A person who is at a vulnerable point in their life and searching for a sense of belonging, may form an emotional attachment to a group, without knowing that the beliefs which bind that group could lead them down the path into extremism or encourage them into terrorism.

People may:

- become isolated from groups and spend more time alone

- express feelings that they have no purpose in life and don't belong

- have a personal crisis, which might be as a result of family tensions, a sense of isolation, adolescence or low self-esteem

- appear to have changes in emotional behaviour

- become fixated on an ideology, belief or subject

- change their language or use of particular words

- experience a change of routine, a change in appearance or spend increasing time on the internet or social media

- be closed to new ideas or conversations

- proclaim a "scripted" speech

- display a sense of grievance or injustice (eg anti-West, anti-capitalist, anti-Muslim, racist tendencies)

- have leanings towards Islamist, Right or Left wing extremism

- show feelings of 'them and us'

- conflict with family members over religious views.

This is not an exhaustive list but may be signs of radicalisation.

It will never
happen here

Although the risk of terrorism in South Gloucestershire is low, it is a sad fact that radicalisation and terrorism can happen anywhere. Vigilance must be maintained when considering those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation in our communities

As members of the community in South Gloucestershire, we should:

- explore other cultures and religions and promote diversity

- challenge prejudices and racist comments

- develop critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity

- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all people in our community, as well as the fundamental British values such as democracy.

Social media and its link to radicalisation
Increasingly, social media is being used as a method of engaging with individuals for the purposes of radicalisation. In addition, vulnerable individuals can use the internet to find information about organisations, ideologies and events without coming to the attention of others.

There are practical things you can do to protect yourself and those around you. For example, use filters on the internet to make sure access to violent extremist and terrorist material is restricted and ensure privacy settings on sites such as Facebook and Twitter are set so as to avoid personal information being shared with the general public.