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Safeguarding Adults

Policy

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1 Purpose

1.1 This policy sets out Evolve's approach to preventing and reducing the risk of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults.

1.2 The policy is also intended to protect those who work with adults from unfounded accusations, or from behaving in ways that may be well-intended but inadvisable, and to enable Evolve services to fulfil the duty of support it provides.

1.3 It provides guidance for volunteers, staff, managers and board members on prompt and effective responses and reporting procedures. Should abuse be suspected, disclosed or discovered, regardless of the setting in which the abuse has taken place, it must be reported in line with this policy and procedure.

1.4 It recognises the obligations and duty of care that organisations working with adults have, including The Care Act (2014), the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Sexual Offences Act 2003, and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

1.5 This policy must be considered with all evictions and exclusions from services across Evolve. Consideration must be given for alternative placement and or referrals where safeguarding is identified.

2 Scope

2.1 This policy is applicable to all permanent and temporary staff, including senior managers, bank workers, agency staff, our board, volunteers and anyone else working on behalf of the organisation. Reporting of safeguarding concerns and abuse is everyone's responsibility.

2.2 Contractors working for Evolve are also bound by this policy and may have their own policy in place in addition.

2.3 This policy is to be read in conjunction with the documents listed in section 10 – Relevant documents.

3 Definitions

3.1 **Adult:** Evolve uses the definition in the Care Act 2014 Anyone over the age of 18 years.

3.2 **Abuse:** Is a form of maltreatment where an adult is harmed, either by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm**.**

3.3 **Safeguarding:** Is defined as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect, while respecting their wellbeing, wishes, and choices

3.4 **Concern:** is the term used to describe when there is or might be an incident of abuse or neglect.

3.5 **Alert:** the term used to describe when a concern is raised with the local authority**.**

3.6 **Statutory agencies**: The key statutory agencies for leading the safeguarding process are: Police, Local Authority (adult Social Care) and Integrated Care Board (NHS)

3.7 **Safeguarding Adults board (SAB**): Oversees adult safeguarding arrangements in a local area, along with other relevant organisations, to help protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

3.8 **Domestic abuse:** The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse as occurring where the victim and perpetrator are over 16 years of age.

3.9 **The Care Act – Section 42:** Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 is the legal duty on a local authority to make safeguarding enquiries when it believes an adult may be at risk of abuse or neglect. A section 42 must be considered when an adult has care or support needs unmet, is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect and is unable to look after or protect themselves.

4 Principles

4.1 All Evolve colleagues have an overriding responsibility to report a safeguarding concern. Where an adult has capacity and there is no significant risk of harm, their wishes will generally be respected. Information may be shared without consent where required by law, where the adult lacks capacity, or where there is a risk of serious harm. Any such decision must be proportionate and recorded

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4.2 Evolve is committed to upholding the six key principles of safeguarding that underpin all safeguarding actions as outlined in the Care Act 2014:

Empowerment – Adults are encouraged to make their own decisions and are provided with support and information

Prevention – strategies are developed to prevent abuse and neglect that promotes resilience and self-determination

Proportionate – a proportionate and least intrusive response is made balanced with the level of risk

Protection – Adults are offered ways to protect themselves and there is a coordinated response to safeguarding

Partnerships – local solutions through services working together within their communities

Accountability – accountability and transparency in delivering a safeguarding response

4.3 **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility** which means that we should never ignore cases of concern and must report any concerns or incidents of harm or abuse that are raised or that we witness during our work.

4.4 **Information sharing is fundamental to good safeguarding practice.** Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people, is fundamental to good safeguarding practice. We have a duty to cooperate and share information where there is a concern raised about the safety of an adult. We have a right to request cooperation from relevant agencies and have a duty to cooperate where a request is made of us.

4.5 **Confidentiality** Wherever possible the consent to share information should be obtained, however safeguarding concerns take priority over confidentiality when an adult is at risk.

4.6 The law does not prevent the sharing of sensitive, personal information between organisations where the public interest served outweighs the public interest served by protecting confidentiality.

4.7 **Making safeguarding personal** is a key is an adult safeguarding approach that ensures safeguarding is **person-led and outcome-focused**. It means working with the adult to understand what outcomes they want from the safeguarding process and supporting them to achieve those outcomes wherever possible

5 Roles and responsibilities

5.1 **Board** members have a collective responsibility around safeguarding across the organisation.

5.2 **Board Safeguarding Champion** provides strategic oversight and assurance on safeguarding.

5.3 To be the point of contact, on behalf of the Board, for the Senior Safeguarding Lead, ensure safeguarding remains a standing item on board agendas, promotes a positive safeguarding culture and provide challenge and scrutiny to senior managers regarding safeguarding performance.

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5.4 **Senior Safeguarding Lead:** To be the owner of the safeguarding policies and to ensure that the policies are fully implemented and reviewed.

5.5 To provide advice to Designated Safeguarding Leads on appropriate responses to concerns and refer to the People in Positions of Trust positions in the Local Authority.

5.6 **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Promote the importance of safeguarding, ensuring all department staff have undertaken required safeguarding training and are implementing policy and procedures effectively, and poor practice is challenged.

5.7 To provide advice and support to other staff on welfare, safeguarding matters; ensuring safeguarding practice is discussed in team meetings to identify any training needs.

5.8 **All Managers:** To be familiar with the Association's safeguarding policies and procedures.

5.9 To provide advice, guidance and support to staff when handling concerns to ensure they are managed and recorded effectively.

5.10 To induct all new members of staff, students or volunteers on procedures, ensuring all staff and volunteers know how to identify and respond to a safeguarding concern.

5.11 **All Staff:** Being familiar with safeguarding policies and procedures and completing mandatory safeguarding training.

5.12 Recording concerns accurately and reporting any safeguarding concerns promptly and appropriately.

5.13 Maintaining professional boundaries and acting in the best interests of adults.

6 Responding to a Report

6.1 All resident facing staff can receive reports of safeguarding concerns. Reports can be made by an adult experiencing abuse or external parties such as a concerned neighbour, a relative, a contractor or support agencies.

6.2 Staff will treat all reports seriously and listen empathetically, so witnesses and individuals experiencing safeguarding issues feel supported and believed. Due to data protection, we may not always be able to keep people updated on the management of issues that they report.

6.3 Staff are expected to report any safeguarding concerns or suspicions as soon as they arise on Inform, our internal caseload management system to minimise the risk of harm to adults at risk. Once we receive a report or suspect abuse, staff will do some initial fact-finding to assess if a referral is required.

6.4 Where we are concerned that an adult may be at risk but doesn't meet the threshold for a safeguarding referral, we are able to share concerns with relevant agencies.

6.5 The Charity Commission's serious incident reporting regime also requires trustees to report serious incidents.

7 Colleague Wellbeing

7.1 Colleagues should be supported throughout any safeguarding alerts raised in a number of ways as listed below. It is important to recognise that each colleague

may require a different level of support, but it is essential that every person raising a safeguarding has a check in with the manager or area manager following the alert.

- Reflective Practice - Can be offered individually or as a team
- EAP – Free counselling and support
- Weekly check in
- Additional one-to-ones
- Time away or flexible working

8 Monitoring and Controls

8.1 **Caseload Management System:** Inform is used to monitor and record safeguarding cases. Managers use Inform to monitor safeguarding cases and actions.

8.2 **Operational Safeguarding Group:** This group, made up of service managers and chaired by the Designated Safeguarding Leads, meets monthly to provide structured peer support for staff managing complex safeguarding cases and promotes consistent, high-quality decision-making.

8.3 **Strategic Safeguarding Group:** Aims to support in developing a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed. The Senior Safeguarding Lead chairs the quarterly group. This group will oversee any high-level cases that involve reporting, monitor quality and compliance and identify emerging themes and trends.

8.4 Board are provided with a quarterly safeguarding report and an annual review report.

8.5 The Corporate Plan includes a Key Performance Indicator of 100% of staff with up-to-date safeguarding training.

9 Safer Recruitment & Training

9.1 Evolve is committed to safe recruitment and we meet our responsibilities in safer recruitment and selection through:

- Thorough application and interview processes,
- Verification of candidates' identities and employment histories.
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- References obtained and scrutinised before appointment
- At least one member of each interview panel will be trained in safer recruitment practices.

9.2 All staff, volunteers, and Board members will complete mandatory safeguarding eLearning training as part of induction and repeated annually.

9.3 Frontline staff will attend mandatory training sessions, appropriate to their role.

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10 Diversity impact assessment

10.1 Evolve recognises that abuse can happen to any adult, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, religion or cultural background.

10.2 The use of this policy and procedure will ensure consistency is applied when staff are dealing with safeguarding adults in our services.

10.3 Our residents are from a diverse range of backgrounds with individual beliefs, values and needs. Dealing with a safeguarding case should be a person-centred process. Any cultural or religious implications need to be considered as there may be culturally specific services available to support the victim.

10.4 Religion or cultural background is never an excuse for abuse. Evolve will apply this policy and procedure in all situations.

10.5 This policy and procedure attempt to ensure that all concerns of safeguarding adults are identified and appropriate actions taken. We will challenge any instance of inequality and ensure all our staff are trained in equal opportunities.

11 Relevant documents

Code of conduct

Confidentiality policy and procedure

Data Protection policy

Disciplinary policy

Incident policy and procedure

Safeguarding young people and children's policy

Safeguarding young people and children's procedure

Whistleblowing policy and procedure

Welfare Checks policy and procedure

Health and Safety policy

IT User policy

Equality Diversity and Inclusion

Lone working policy

12 Legislation

12.1 Legislation that underpins safeguarding practices includes:

- The Care ACT 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR)

- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- The Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015

This policy was developed in consultation with:

1. **Operational SMT**

Appendix 1 - Types and indicators of abuse - forms of abuse and the signs

Possible indicators are suggestions and not exhaustive. Colleagues should be alert to any changes in a customer's behaviour and how they look after themselves and their room. Evidence of any one indicator from the following lists should not be taken on its own as proof that abuse is occurring, however, it should alert workers to make further assessments and to consider any associated factors. The lists of possible indicators and examples of behaviour are not exhaustive and people may be subject to a number of abuse types at the same time.

The Care Act identifies the following ten types of abuse:

Physical abuse Assault, hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, hair-pulling, biting, pushing, rough handling, scalding and burning

Signs of physical abuse:

- No explanation for injuries or inconsistency with the account of what happened
- Injuries are inconsistent with the person's lifestyle
- Bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps
- Frequent injuries
- Unexplained falls
- Subdued or changed behaviour in the presence of a particular person
- Signs of malnutrition
- Failure to seek medical treatment or frequent changes of GP

Domestic violence or abuse The new definition of domestic violence and abuse, as described in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, now states: Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten a victim. Coercive behaviour can include: acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation, harming, punishing, or frightening the person, isolating the person from sources of support, exploitation of resources or money, preventing the person from escaping abuse, regulating everyday behaviour.

The domestic abuse definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) Involves procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The procedure has no health benefits for girls and women. The Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) makes it illegal to practise FGM in the UK or to take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in another country.

Honour-based violence (HBV) The concept of 'honour' is for some communities extremely important. To compromise a family's 'honour' is to bring dishonour and shame and this can have severe consequences. The punishment for bringing dishonour can be emotional abuse, physical abuse, family disownment and in some cases even murder. In most honour-based abuse cases there are multiple perpetrators from the immediate family, sometimes the extended family and occasionally the community at large. Mothers, sisters, aunties and even grandmothers have been known to be involved in the conspiring of honour crimes. HBV will usually be a criminal offence and referring to the police must always be considered as they have the necessary expertise to manage the risk. Some victims will contact the police or other organisations. However, many others are so isolated and controlled that they are unable to seek help.

Forced marriage Is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. In a situation where there is concern that an adult is being forced into a marriage, they do not or cannot consent to, there will be an overlap between action taken under the forced marriage provisions and the adult safeguarding process. In this case action will be co-ordinated with the police and other relevant organisations. The police must always be contacted in such cases as urgent action may need to be taken. Culture, religion and tradition are not excuses. Forcing someone into marriage is a criminal offence in the UK and carries a custodial sentence up to 7 years in prison.

Signs of domestic violence or abuse

- Low self-esteem
- Feeling that the abuse is their fault when it is not
- Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones
- Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others
- Fear of outside intervention
- Damage to home or property
- Isolation – not seeing friends and family
- Limited access to money

Sexual abuse Rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, non-consensual masturbation of either or both persons, non-consensual sexual penetration or attempted penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented, does not have capacity to consent to, or was pressured into consenting.

Signs of sexual abuse

- Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Bleeding, pain or itching in the genital area
- Unusual difficulty in walking or sitting
- Infections, unexplained genital discharge, or sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse
- The uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language or significant changes in sexual behaviour or attitude
- Incontinence not related to any medical diagnosis
- Self-harming
- Poor concentration, withdrawal, sleep disturbance
- Excessive fear/apprehension of, or withdrawal from, relationships
- Fear of receiving help with personal care
- Reluctance to be alone with a particular person

Psychological or emotional abuse Psychological abuse involves the regular and deliberate use of a range of words and non-physical actions used with the purpose to manipulate, hurt, weaken or frighten a person mentally and emotionally; and/or distort, confuse or influence a person's thoughts and actions within their everyday lives, changing their sense of self and harming their wellbeing. It includes enforced social isolation – preventing someone accessing services, educational and social opportunities and seeing friends, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, preventing the expression of choice and opinion, failure to respect privacy, preventing stimulation, meaningful occupation or activities

Signs of psychological or emotional abuse

- An air of silence when a particular person is present
- Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person
- Insomnia
- Low self-esteem
- Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour
- A change of appetite, weight loss/gain
- Signs of distress: tearfulness, anger
- Apparent false claims, by someone involved with the person, to attract unnecessary treatment

Financial or material abuse Theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Signs of financial or material abuse

- Missing personal possessions
- Unexplained lack of money or inability to maintain lifestyle
- Unexplained withdrawal of funds from accounts

- Power of attorney or lasting power of attorney (LPA) being obtained after the person has ceased to have mental capacity
- Failure to register an LPA after the person has ceased to have mental capacity to manage their finances, so that it appears that they are continuing to do so
- The person allocated to manage financial affairs is evasive or uncooperative
- The family or others show unusual interest in the assets of the person
- Signs of financial hardship in cases where the person's financial affairs are being managed by a court appointed deputy, attorney or LPA
- Rent arrears and eviction notices
- Failure to provide receipts for shopping or other financial transactions carried out on behalf of the person
- Disparity between the person's living conditions and their financial resources, e.g. insufficient food in the house

Modern slavery Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, human trafficking, forced labour, criminal exploitation, debt bondage – being forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to, and organ harvesting.

Victims of modern slavery can be any age, gender, nationality and ethnicity. They are tricked or threatened into work and may feel unable to leave or report the crime through fear or intimidation. They may not recognise themselves as a victim.

Human trafficking Is used by Serious and Organised Crime Groups to make money. This problem has a global reach. It is run like a business with the supply of people and services to a customer, all for the purpose of making a profit. Traffickers exploit the social, cultural or financial vulnerability of the victim and place huge financial and ethical obligations on them. They control almost every aspect of the victim's life, with little regard for the victim's welfare and health.

Sexual exploitation Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where adults at risk (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. It affects men as well as women. People who are sexually exploited do not always perceive that they are being exploited.

In all cases those exploiting the adult have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength, and/or economic or other resources. There is a distinct inequality in the relationship. Signs to look out for are not being able to speak to the adult alone, observation of the adult seeking approval from the exploiter to respond and the person exploiting the adult answering for them and making decisions without consulting them

Signs of modern slavery

- Signs of physical or emotional abuse
- Appearing to be malnourished, unkempt or withdrawn
- Isolation from the community, seeming under the control or influence of others
- Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation and or living and working at the same address
- Lack of personal effects or identification documents
- Always wearing the same clothes

- Avoidance of eye contact, appearing frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers
- Fear of law enforcers

Discriminatory abuse Unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation (known as 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010), verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic, denying access to communication aids, not allowing access to an interpreter, signer or lip-reader, discrimination on the grounds of race, faith or religion, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and political views, along with racist, sexist, homophobic or ageist comments or jokes, or comments and jokes based on a person's disability or any other form of harassment, slur or similar treatment. Excluding a person from activities on the basis they are 'not liked' is also discriminatory abuse.

Signs of discriminatory abuse

- The person appears withdrawn and isolated
- Expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety
- The support on offer does not take account of the person's individual needs in terms of a protected characteristic

Organisational or institutional abuse Is the mistreatment, abuse or neglect of an adult by a regime or individuals in a setting or service where the adult lives or that they use. Such abuse violates the person's dignity and represents a lack of respect for their human rights. Examples may include discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives or friends, run-down or overcrowded establishment, authoritarian management or rigid regimes, insufficient staff or high turnover resulting in poor quality care, abusive and disrespectful attitudes towards people using the service, inappropriate use of restraints, lack of respect for dignity and privacy, not offering choice or promoting independence, misuse of medication, not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs, failure to respond to abuse appropriately, interference with personal correspondence or communication.

Signs of organisational or institutional abuse

- Lack of flexibility and choice for people using the service
- Inadequate staffing levels
- People being hungry or dehydrated
- Poor standards of care
- Lack of personal clothing and possessions and communal use of personal items
- Lack of adequate procedures
- Poor record-keeping and missing documents
- Absence of visitors
- Few social, recreational and educational activities
- Public discussion of personal matters
- Unnecessary exposure during bathing or using the toilet
- Absence of individual care plans
- Lack of management overview and support

Neglect and acts of omission Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, and the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. Neglect also includes a failure to intervene in situations that are dangerous to the person concerned or to others, particularly when the person lacks the mental capacity to assess risk for themselves.

Signs of neglect and acts of omission

- Poor environment – dirty or unhygienic
- Poor physical condition and/or personal hygiene
- Pressure sores or ulcers
- Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss
- Untreated injuries and medical problems
- Inconsistent or reluctant contact with medical and social care organisations
- Accumulation of untaken medication
- Uncharacteristic failure to engage in social interaction
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing

Self-neglect Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety, neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings, inability to avoid self-harm, failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs, inability or unwillingness to manage one's personal affairs

Signs of self-neglect

- Very poor personal hygiene
- Unkempt appearance
- Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter
- Malnutrition and/or dehydration
- Living in squalid or unsanitary conditions
- Neglecting household maintenance
- Hoarding
- Collecting a large number of animals in inappropriate conditions
- Non-compliance with health or care services
- Inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury

In addition to the types of abuse as set out in the Care Act, the following definitions may also be useful:

Hate crime The police and the CPS have agreed the following definition for identifying and flagging hate crimes:

"Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity."

It should be noted that this definition is based on the perception of the victim or anyone else and is not reliant on evidence. In addition it includes incidents that do not constitute a criminal offence.

Mate crime A 'mate crime' as defined by the Safety Net Project is 'when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.' Mate crime is often difficult for police to investigate, due to its sometimes ambiguous nature, but should be reported to the police who will make a decision about whether or not a criminal offence has been committed. Mate Crime is carried out by someone the adult knows and often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Case Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were murdered or seriously harmed by people who purported to be their friend.

Restraint Unlawful or inappropriate use of restraint or physical interventions. In some circumstances unlawful or inappropriate use of restraint may constitute a criminal offence. Someone is using restraint if they use force, or threaten to use force, to make someone do something they are resisting, or where an adult's freedom of movement is restricted, whether they are resisting or not.

Restraint covers a wide range of actions. It includes the use of active or passive means to ensure that the person concerned does something, or does not do something they want to do, for example, the use of key pads to prevent people from going where they want from a closed environment.

Correct use of restrictions or restraint is covered by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Liberty Protection Safeguards must be followed for it to be lawful.

Radicalisation Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. It is comparable to other forms of exploitation, such as grooming. The aim of radicalisation is to attract people to extreme views or reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of the cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy and aims to provide support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed into terrorist activity before any crimes are committed.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. The support available for individuals at risk of being radicalised is called Channel. The Channel panel is a multi-agency panel chaired by the Local Authority to support individuals who have been identified as being groomed into terrorism through the development of an appropriate safeguarding support package based on an assessment of their vulnerability of being at risk of radicalisation. Referrals to Channel are through the police engagement officer.