

Prevent road map: Merton

Introduction to Statutory Prevent Duty

We all have a role to play in keeping residents, visitors and business safe in Merton. This includes helping to reduce the threat from terrorism and extremism, and being resilient against grooming and radicalisation that can lead vulnerable people to support terrorism or become terrorists themselves. The National Prevent Strategy will operate in communities before behavior becomes criminal by encouraging individuals and communities to challenge and stop extremism, terrorist ideology and associated behavior. This road map explains how the National 'Prevent Strategy' is working in Merton. Visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011 for more information and how you can take an active role.

No 1: Merton and the Statutory Prevent Duty

All local authorities have a statutory duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act Prevent Duty (1 July 2015) to have, in the exercise of their functions, "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

No 4: Training

If you would like to receive more information for front-line staff on the Statutory Prevent Duty, WRAP3 (Workshops Raising Awareness of Prevent) helps people recognise:

- different forms of extremism and those who may be vulnerable to it
- how to share concerns and the importance of the prevent and channel referral process

Please contact the prevent lead for more information regarding training:
prevent@merton.gov.uk

What are the risks?

Factors may include:

- isolation and social exclusion
- out of character changes in behaviour
- lack of self-esteem
- victim of bullying or hate crime
- family tensions
- search for personal identity
- influence/exploitation from other people or over the internet
- extrovert behaviour glorifying violence
- race and hate crime
- personal grievances

No 2: Merton Prevent Strategy and Delivery Plan

Merton Council will work with other agencies listed as 'Specified Authorities' under the Statutory Prevent Duty. Merton will develop and implement a Prevent Strategy and Delivery Plan that will promote community cohesion and social inclusion to challenge all forms of extremism. This will set out how we will respond to:

- ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- prevent people being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given advice and support
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

No 3: Sharing concerns – The London Borough of Merton channel process

One strand of activity is the support offered to people most at risk of radicalisation through the channel process, where it is essential you share concerns you may have about anyone you believe may be at risk of being groomed by extremists, radicalised or drawn into terrorist-related activities. It is important to note:

- engagement with prevent and channel is voluntary and does not criminalise people
- prevent and channel work in pre-criminal space
- prevent/channel referrals do not appear on DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks.

Share your concerns

If you are concerned about someone who may be drawn into extremism please contact:
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
020 8545 4226/4227
mash@merton.gov.uk
9am–5pm Monday–Friday.
Out of hours emergency 020 8770 5000

Conclusion

Raising a genuine concern to Merton Council or the Police in no way criminalises someone who has not committed a crime. Your actions could help prevent them from being radicalised and help keep them and others safe. The authorities will work together to help safeguard that individual. By speaking out, you could help prevent serious harm to yourself and those around you.

