Prevent Policy

INTRODUCTION The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation!

Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young or vulnerable people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion).

The People Matter Trust has a zero-tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour from clients or staff. Due to the structure of the service offered People Matter are likely to find it difficult to observe patterns of behaviour over time although they may from time to time observe an individual expressing an extreme opinion as defined below. People Matter support many vulnerable client groups for example those with: mental health issues, disaffection or learning disabilities. It is recognised that some of these people may be subject to grooming behaviour.

DEFINITION Extremism can be defined as “holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views”.

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism, and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

WHAT PEOPLE MATTER DO IF CONCERN IS RAISED ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL

Write an incident report and give to the CEO/Director of Operations who will review the information in the light of any past history and make a decision that may involve:

- Talking to the person involved about the reported incident
- If appropriate completing an Incident Form
- Making it clear that extreme views, as defined, above are not acceptable.
- If necessary, not allowing further access to the service.
- Contacting the police to report concerns and for further advice

Next Review October 2027