



Privacy Notice

Counter Terrorism – Channel Programme

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults is everyone's responsibility. Local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard children, young people and adults in relation to their social care functions.

Channel was first piloted in 2007 and rolled out across England and Wales in April 2012. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

Success of the programme is very much dependent on the co-operation and co-ordinated activity of partners. It works best when the individuals and their families fully engage with the programme and are supported in a consistent manner.

Cumbria County Council has a statutory duty under section 36 to 41 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism.

Consent

Prior to a decision being made about whether a child, young person or adult is to be adopted onto Channel, information sharing may be required. The default for panel partners when determining what information can be shared should be to consider seeking the consent of the individual (or their parent/guardian).

In some circumstances, consent from the individual will not be sought at this early stage. This will be dependent on the circumstances of the case but may relate to issues such as the health of the individual, law enforcement or protection of the public.

Where consent cannot be sought, information sharing may take place if any of the exemptions to the various legislative provisions restricting information sharing applies, and it will need to be made explicit in the record of the case by a panel partner which exemption or gateway is being relied upon.

A list of relevant legislation can be found at Annex A: [Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism](#)

For any child, young person or adult to be adopted onto a Channel Programme consent of the appropriate person is required. If Consent is not provided, a child, adult or Young Person cannot be adopted onto Channel for support to be provided.

Data Collection

In the course of delivering our responsibilities under the Channel programme, we collect the following personal information about you, either when you provide it to us or from another member of the Channel Panel:

- name
- address
- date of birth
- contact details
- relevant family member and associate details
- gender
- first language
- criminal records and conviction data

We also collect the following special category personal data:

- relevant medical information (if applicable)
- religious beliefs (if applicable)
- relevant Social Care information
- ethnicity

We recognise that personal information concerning criminal convictions and offences is not special category personal data but is a very sensitive type of personal information. We use your personal information to provide tailored support at an early stage.

Legal Basis

Processing of personal data for Channel is necessary for the purposes of the various Channel duties set out in:

- Section 36 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014

The lawful basis on which we collect and use your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the completion of task carried out in the public interest.'

As we may collect and use your special categories of personal data (medical information and religious beliefs) and also details about criminal records and convictions, if relevant, the lawful basis on which we collect and use your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest' namely for preventing and detecting unlawful acts

Data Sharing

As part of the Channel process, personal information is shared securely and only where strictly necessary. Relevant information will be sought from other agencies as appropriate to inform our assessment. Where there is a need this will be discussed at a multi-agency panel to consider whether intervention support should be offered.

The information will only be shared with relevant agencies. This may include:

- police;
- health agencies;
- Home Office or other central government departments (where required);
- Immigration;
- Probation;
- other local councils;
- schools/colleges

We will share personal information with law enforcement or other authorities if required to do so by applicable law.

Data Security

All of the information you give us will be kept safe and secure whether it is written or on a computer system. We will treat any personal information confidentially and will comply with the Data Protection Act 2018. This means that, if we keep any of your personal data we must:

- Tell you what information we need to collect from you
- Only use the information for the reason we have agreed with you
- Not ask for more information than we need to provide the services
- Let you see any information we have collected about you, on request

- Keep the information safe, secure and confidential
- Personal information will be deleted in accordance with our data retention policy.
- We will always seek to comply with your request however we may be required to hold or use your information to comply with legal duties. We will liaise with the Home Office regarding your request, as information is jointly controlled with the Home Office. Please note: your request may delay or prevent us from supporting you.

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