

Rotunda Prevent Policy

Policy Background

This policy outlines Rotunda Ltd.'s approach to the statutory requirement to implement the Prevent duty. The Prevent policy aims to safeguard vulnerable individuals who may be at risk of being radicalised and of potentially becoming involved in terrorist activities. It has strong links to safeguarding policies. There is a duty placed on bodies receiving public funding to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, "Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015."

The government's "**Counter-Extremism Strategy**" (published 19 October 2015) further outlines the requirements on public institutions to implement the Prevent duty. The strategy aims to "ensure that no institutions can provide an uncontested space for extremist ideology to be propagated". It also identifies strategies for countering extremist ideologies, building partnerships with those who oppose extremism and building cohesive communities. This is further reinforced by CONTEST, the UK's strategy for Countering Terrorism (June 2018).

The government has defined extremism in the Prevent Duty as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including calls for the death of members of the British armed forces." British values include "democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs".

This definition of British values closely relates to Rotunda's values:

- *Our values:* respect, opportunities, trust, understanding, non-judgemental, diverse and always positive.

It is within this context that Rotunda has developed its approach to the implementation of the Prevent duty.

1. Our aim

Rotunda Ltd recognises its duty to implement Prevent and, in doing so, we are also committed to enabling and supporting critical debate about the duty within the context of Rotunda Ltd.'s values as follows:

"Rotunda Ltd is a democratic, charitable organisation committed to education and changing people's lives. We aim to overcome inequalities and disadvantage in all of our work. We do this through participative, compassionate and inclusive educational opportunities. We work in the heart of our community and expand our work to the wider Liverpool City Region to

encompass our strong partnerships at a local level. We want to provide our learners with the skills and education for them to aspire to greater things in their lives. We are committed to social justice and our values actively commit us to promote the core values of the prevent agenda.”

2. Leadership and Management

The implementation of the Prevent Duty is the responsibility of the Leadership team with direction from the Board of Trustees. Rotunda Ltd.'s Safeguarding Lead Officers are the single point of contact for all reported issues in relation to Prevent, supported by a named member of the Board of Trustees. The Safeguarding Lead Officers will provide an annual report for the Board of Trustees outlining how the organisation has carried out its statutory duties and measuring progress against the Prevent risk assessment and action plan.

We will ensure that:

- The Prevent Duty is fully implemented across the organisation seeking where possible to ensure an appropriate fit with our values.
- There is consultation with community partners.
- There is an overall organisational risk assessment which seeks to highlight any key areas of focus and appropriate actions for the organisation as a whole.
- Staff receive appropriate training and understand the risks behind radicalisation, the meaning of extremism within the context of freedom of speech, and the factors which contribute to vulnerability to extremism.
- Staff have support in implementing the duty effectively.
- Staff have the opportunity to engage in discussion about the implementation of the duty.
- Specific risk assessments in relation to the safety of our staff, students, members and volunteers may be utilised, as appropriate,
- Appropriate information sharing policies are in place.
- The Prevent Risk Assessment and action plan is reviewed and monitored by the Board of Trustees.

3. Safeguarding Students

Rotunda Ltd aims to protect the wellbeing of children and adults engaged in the range of its activities. Appropriate arrangements are in place to provide a safe and secure environment via the organisation's safeguarding procedures, structures and reporting mechanisms. Where there are concerns regarding vulnerability to exploitation and manipulation via online grooming or other methods, the Safeguarding reporting methods and procedures will be implemented. An incident of concern should be recorded on the REPORT FORM which is available to all staff.

The SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT flowchart is also provided in this document for ease of reference.

4. Specific Responsibilities:

We aim to ensure that staff roles and responsibilities in relation to the Prevent duty are clear and transparent:

4.1 Safeguarding Lead Officers

The Safeguarding Lead Officers have responsibility for:

- Maintaining and implementing the safeguarding and Prevent policy and framework.
- Maintaining and updating the Prevent Duty risk assessment and action plan.
- Management and co-ordination of Prevent Duty training.
- Providing support and advice to staff on Prevent issues, disclosures or referrals.
- Providing support and advice to Trustees, Managers and HR staff in dealing with matters relating to prevent issues, disclosures and referrals.
- Centrally recording statistics on any incidents related to prevent alerts. In cases where an incident involves a member of staff, the Safeguarding Lead Officers will involve the HR team in the investigative process.
- Engaging in community consultations about the implementation of the Prevent Duty and supporting collaborative partnership work.
- Ensuring there is robust monitoring of safeguarding and Prevent practice in subcontracted provision.
- Consulting with the designated Trustee who has responsibility for Safeguarding and the Prevent Duty.
- Providing reports for the Board of Trustees.
- Contributing to the annual Self-Assessment process.
- Working with the Curriculum and Quality Team, in the application and critical discussion of Prevent in the classroom and in training for staff.

4.2 Tutors, Members and Volunteers.

All new tutors are required to complete Safeguarding and Prevent training in the tutor induction where staff are given clear guidance on Rotunda Ltd values, the safeguarding approach and procedures, and safe working practices. Refresher Safeguarding and Prevent training is a requirement at least every 2-3 years.

Volunteers are required to complete the Rotunda Ltd Safeguarding Awareness for Volunteers as part of their induction training and will be aware of how to report incidents and concerns.

All other staff will receive safeguarding and prevent information and training proportionate to their role.

5. Teaching and Learning

We are committed to providing a curriculum which embodies our commitment to social purpose. We aim to achieve this by:

- Supporting the development of critical thinking, resilience and active citizenship within learning.
- Enabling students to express views freely within the context of the student code of conduct and the law.
- Creating curriculum resources to support the discussion and challenge in Rotunda Ltd courses of fundamentalist belief that underlies the types of extremism that denies democracy and equality and sometimes leads to terrorism.
- Actively celebrating diversity and fostering good relationships.
- Developing the student voice and asking students to provide feedback on their “confidence in speaking out and taking part in my community” and their “awareness of the varied cultures that shape our world”
- Promoting our commitment to social purpose via varied media.
- Actively preparing our students to live and work in Britain and the world as responsible citizens in society.

6. Training

The WEA will require all appropriate staff to undergo training with the aim of ensuring that they understand their responsibilities under the Prevent duty and act upon them accordingly. Training will be proportionate to the role using a range of formats which include e-learning, video conferences, face to face group sessions, staff conferences. External training will be utilised as appropriate.

All training will include the following, as appropriate for the role:

- An understanding of the Duty, the context, the factors that contribute to vulnerability to extremism, signs of radicalisation and grooming, support mechanisms and the Channel process.
- The Rotunda Ltd approach to the Prevent Duty, roles and responsibilities, reporting procedures.
- An understanding of “British” or common values, how these are defined and how they are consistent with our mission and purpose. How to incorporate these into teaching and learning (as appropriate).

This approach will be built on the strong value base of Rotunda Ltd which is consistent with the British Values statements and with existing curriculum and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion practice.

7. Policies and Procedures

We will ensure that all policies and procedures that are relevant to the Prevent duty are reviewed, updated and understood by Staff, members and volunteers, as appropriate to their role. Relevant policies, available include:

- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Whistleblowing policy
- Online safety policy
- Equality, diversity and inclusion policy

Relevant government publications include:

- Counter Extremism Strategy. HM Government. 2015
- CONTEST. UK's Strategy for Countering Extremism. June 2018
- Prevent Duty Guidance. HM Government. Revised July 2015

As part of the referral process, the designated professional will also raise an electronic referral:

CHANNEL Team at Merseyside Police Headquarters.

Channel@merseyside.police.uk.

Contact Numbers

Tel: 0151-777-8505

Email: Special.Branch@merseyside.pnn.police.uk

Subject of all emails should be: CHANNEL

Merseyside Police Prevent Engagement Team

Tel: 0151-777-8311

Email: Darren.F.Taylor@merseyside.police.uk

Liverpool Local Authority Prevent Coordinator

Tel: 0151-233-7015

Email: Clive.Finch@liverpool.gov.uk

Channel referral process

Some concerns which are identified may have a security dimension to them. For this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations.

Merseyside Police will carry out an initial assessment and, if appropriate, set up a multiagency meeting to agree actions for supporting the individual. If it is deemed that there are no concerns around radicalisation, appropriate and targeted support will be considered for the young person.



Rotunda Policy Review Record

Reviewed by:	Approval date:	Review frequency:	Review date:	Signed:
Maxine Ennis	1 st March 2024	Annual	28 th February 2025	