

Background:

Full guidance on Channel Panels is provided in the Channel Duty Guidance 2020.

Channel forms a key part of the national Prevent strategy. Channel is an identification and intervention safeguarding multi-agency process, providing support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Channel became a statutory requirement as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. In practice, the legislation requires:

- a) local authorities to ensure that a multi-agency Panel exists in their area;
- b) the local authority to provide the Chair;
- c) the Panel to develop a support plan for individuals accepted as Channel cases;
- d) the Panel to consider alternative forms of support, including health and social services, where Channel is not appropriate; and
- e) all partners of a Panel (as specified in Schedule 7), so far as appropriate and reasonably practicable, to cooperate with the police and the panel in the carrying out of their functions

Purpose:

Channel is an early intervention, multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people. Channel is designed to work with individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremists or terrorist ideologies. The process is shaped around the circumstances of each person and can provide support for any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerability.

Channel is a safeguarding and public protection measure that aims to ensure that 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.

The Channel Panel is the principal decision-making and co-ordinating body for the Channel programme in Solihull. Channel seeks to deliver prompt and tailored work in its conduct of assessing an individual's vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism.

The purpose of Channel is not to replicate support offered by other multi-agency panels which have their own defined purpose. If an existing multi-agency panel is in

operation supporting an individual, then this should complement Channel. Neither panel should be a replacement of the other, as ultimately, they have different aims to achieve.

The Channel process is managed by the Local Authority, in conjunction with the Police, on behalf of the Home Office.

Referral to Channel Panel:

Cases will be referred into Channel where the outcome of the Police gateway assessment identifies there is reasonable cause to suspect that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn towards any terrorism offences, and, it is considered appropriate to seek to support them through Prevent.

Individuals whom the police reasonably suspect pose a serious or imminent risk of terrorism offending, will not be signposted onwards for support through Channel.

Governance:

The Channel Panel Chair reports directly to the Solihull Prevent, Protect, Prepare Group (3Ps Group). The Solihull 3Ps Group has overall responsibility for the local overview and monitoring of Solihull implementation of the Prevent duty. The Channel Chair or Prevent Co-ordinator will report to the Solihull 3Ps Group and to councillors through the Solihull Scrutiny Committee as required.

In the event of concern about the form, function or outcome of the Channel Panel, Channel Panel members should raise their concern initially with the Chair of the Channel Panel. If they are not satisfied that the concern has been adequately addressed, the issue should be raised with the Chair of the Solihull Prevent, Protect, Prepare Group.

Channel Panel Chair:

Simon Stubbs 0121 788 4310

Channel Panel Deputy Chair:

Pali Obhi 0121 788 4290