



Stoke-on-Trent Channel Panel

Operating Principles

This document should be read in conjunction with the 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding People who are vulnerable to Violent Extremism in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent (publication pending subject to

sign off by SCB) ¹ and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board Policy Framework Information Sharing Protocol.²

Role of the Channel Panel

The role of the multi-agency panel is to develop an appropriate support package to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into violent extremism based on an assessment of their vulnerability. It is important that clear objectives are devised and recorded to address the identified risks and those responsible for meeting those objectives are identified. The risk assessment process for those vulnerable to extremism is no different to managing the risks relating to other vulnerabilities.

Purpose of the Channel Panel

- for agencies to share information which is pertinent to undertaking a multi-agency risk assessment
- Identifies the vulnerability indicators and likelihood of the individual committing extremist offending
- Identifies serious risk of harm issues and their imminence; and
- Is critical to delivering an effective Risk Management Plan, which addresses all of the risks identified in the risk assessment in order to support the individual. To ensure there is an effective safeguarding plan in place to support the individual

The standard agenda will include attendance/apologies, confidentiality statement, Local issues update, review of minutes from previous meetings and new cases.

Channel Referrals

Where professionals within any agency are concerned about risks to a child or adult being drawn into violent extremism, they should discuss with their Channel Panel representative (where applicable) and contact the Channel Coordinator.

Bringing individual cases to Channel Panel

The Channel Coordinator is the conduit for bringing cases to Channel Panel and can receive referrals from a number of different sources. Where professionals are



Prevent Channel
1 Guidance v7 01Apr15

² http://webapps.stoke.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/A07_Information_Sharing_Protocol_June_2012.pdf

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concerned about an individual at risk of being drawn into violent extremism, they should discuss with agency lead/Channel Panel representative and/or the Channel Coordinator.

These operating principals do not supplant, replace or override any current safeguarding procedures

Membership of the Channel Panel

The following agencies are members of the Channel Panel:

- Staffordshire Police
- Vulnerable Children & Corporate Parenting
- Adult Safeguarding
- Community Cohesion
- Safeguarding Children Board
- Mental Health Services
- Probation
- Co-operatives (Education Welfare, Housing, STAR,)
- Youth Offending Service

The Chair of the Channel panel is Amanda Owen - Strategic Manager Safeguarding & QA , Shahzad Tahir is the Deputy Chair and Lisa Fairhurst is the Channel Coordinator.

Agency	Channel Panel Member	Title	Contact (to be added)
Staffordshire Police	Sgt Calum Forsyth	Prevent Coordinator	01785 232054 07970047227 Calum.Forsyth@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk
Staffordshire Police	Lisa Fairhurst	Channel Coordinator	Lisa.Fairhurst@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk
LA Vulnerable Children & Corporate Parenting	Amanda Owen	Strategic Manager Safeguarding & QA	01782 234791 amanda.owen@stoke.gcsx.gov.uk
LA Community Cohesion	Shahzad Tahir	Community Cohesion Manager	01782 238771 shahzad.tahir@stoke.gcsx.gov.uk
LA Adult Safeguarding	Jackie Bloxham	Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator	01782 232396 jackie.bloxham@stoke.gov.uk
Safeguarding Children Board	Dawn Casewell	Safeguarding Education Development Officer	01782 235897 dawn.casewell@stoke.gov.uk
Safeguarding Children Board	Carole Preston	SCB Manager	01782 235863 carole.preston@stoke.gcsx.gov.uk
Probation	Ian Hodgkinson	Senior Probation Officer	01782 202800 ian.hodgkinson@probation.gsi.gov.uk
Combined Health	Vicki Baxendale	Named Nurse Safeguarding	01782 441664 v.baxendale@nhs.net

Clinical Commissioning Group	Paula Carr	Designated Nurse/Prevent Lead CCG	Paula.carr@nhs.net 01782 401004
LA Co-operative working	Jaime Wainwright	Strategic Manager (City Wide)	01782 231267 jaime.wainwright@stoke.gov.uk
Youth Offending Service	Tim Smith	Risk & Safeguarding Co-ordinator	01782 237995 tim.smith@stoke.gcsx.gov.uk

The role of panel members

- To attend monthly Channel Panel or send an appropriate deputy from their agency
- Contribute to information sharing, risk assessment and decision- making about most appropriate intervention to address identified vulnerabilities
- Follow up actions agreed and report back on progress and outcomes from their own agency
- Represent and act as a communication link/lead with their own agency

The role of Channel Panel members

- To attend and participate
- Take responsibility for follow up actions relating to their agency
- Recording information securely

The role of the Chair

- Ensure that everyone has an opportunity to share agency information
- Manage meeting so conducted within time allowed
- Oversee administration of agenda and record of meeting/actions

Lead Worker

A lead worker may be invited to attend Channel Panel at a specific time in relation to a child or young person or adult whom they are working with. They may be a teacher, social worker, health professional, Probation Officer, Co-operative Service Coordinator etc

Their role is:

- To attend at time invited or provide email update to Chair
- Follow up actions agreed

Information sharing

Agencies should apply the principles outlined within the Safeguarding Children / Adults Boards Information Sharing Protocols.³ All practitioners and managers who

work with children and families or adults at risk will need to make decisions about sharing personal and confidential information on a case by case basis.

Working together 2013 is explicit in stating that “fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote and protect the safety of children”

Consent should not be sought if by so doing it might place a child or adult at risk of significant harm or prejudice the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime, which is likely to cover most criminal offences relating to children.

Once a child or adult has been accepted on to Channel and an intervention proposed, that child or adult must be made aware that they are subject to Channel.

Representatives should ensure that they have physical and electronic storage security for the stored data and that there is awareness, training and management of the systems where the information is stored.

Administration

Notes will be taken of discussion and actions recorded. All information sent to agencies should be sent through secure email addresses or password protected and stored securely. The notes will be distributed within 7 days of Channel Panel and the agenda sent out 7 days before Channel Panel.

Regular review

These operating principles will be reviewed by panel members annually (March).