



## Gateway College Prevent Strategy 2019 - 2020

### Context:

The aim of this strategy, risk assessment and action plan is to:

- Continue to raise awareness of Prevent in the College
- Recognise current practice which contributes to the Prevent agenda
- Identify areas for improvement and address subsequent action points
- Embed the Prevent agenda within both pastoral and curriculum delivery

### The Prevent Strategy:

The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. The majority of terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. The Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy is CONTEST, which is based around four strands:

**Pursue:** the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks

**Protect:** improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack

**Prepare:** working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible

**Prevent:** working to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

The College Prevent strategy seeks to address national and local issues both current and potential within the College's community, including:

- Reflecting the national trend, extremism inspired by armed Islamic extremist groups operating in Syria and Iraq continues to represent the most prominent CT (counter terrorism) related threat and vulnerability within Leicestershire. Within the last 12 months, 98 percent of all operational activity within Leicester and Leicestershire was focussed on Islamic extremism.
- The majority of known risk and threat remains concentrated within Leicester City. However, extremist activity is not confined to the city area with 13 percent of operational subjects associated to areas in the county.
- Leicester continues to have the highest number of known travellers of national security concern within the East Midlands. These include both families and young males.
- Resettlement of families into less ethnically diverse communities in the north of the city has the potential to increase vulnerability to hate crime.

Education, like other key sectors, has a responsibility to promote values of openness, tolerance and facilitating free debate which is central to being a British Citizen. Promotion of any organisations linked to violent extremism is contrary to the values of the College and

could constitute misconduct. With the current Government alert at **severe** the College needs to be aware of risks and raise awareness within its community, and to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of learners they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

The strategy has the following key objectives:

- To promote and reinforce shared values
- To listen to and support the learner voice
- To ensure learner safety and that the College is free from discrimination in all forms
- To support inter faith and inter cultural dialogue and understanding
- To provide support and guidance for learners who may be at risk
- To ensure that staff and learners are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing extremism in all its forms

### **Managing Risks and Responding to Events:**

The College monitors risks and deals appropriately with any issues that arise by:

- Ensuring that policies, procedures and subsequent plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on our local communities
- The development and continual monitoring of the Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan

### **Staff:**

New statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' was introduced in April 2014, and revised in September 2019; from this guidance the College introduced safer working practices to support in identifying the behaviours expected of all staff. Further developments have also taken place around safer recruitment practice to ensure that all safeguarding procedures are in place.

It is every staff member's responsibility to respond appropriately to learners whose behaviours are challenging and inappropriate. It is recognised that some staff require support and encouragement to develop and use the skills required to challenge appropriately.

Awareness has been raised to reinforce Prevent. All staff have undergone an appropriate level of training and further blended refresh training is being undertaken annually, including new employees.

### **The College:**

Prevent sits within safeguarding in College; The Safeguarding Policy and accompanying procedures are well established and generally understood by all staff. The Designated Safeguarding Leads meet regularly and any concerns raised under the Prevent agenda are discussed within this group. A very small number of concerns have so far been raised and referred to the local Prevent Co-ordinator. Annual safeguarding reports are presented at the Quality and Standards sub-committee of the Governing Body.

The College will also promote the ethos of the Prevent agenda by encouraging free and open debate whilst challenging extreme views. The core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation will also be supported through classroom practice and the cross College tutorial programme.

### **Teaching and Learning:**

The College systematically reviews its performance to ensure it narrows the attainment gap with vulnerable or disadvantaged groups/communities who may or may not be more likely to be subjected to radicalisation.

Through the curriculum, teaching and learning strategies are deployed which explore controversial issues in a way which promotes critical analysis and wider skill development. This also builds the resilience of learners and supports their voice. British Values, alongside equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion are embedded and celebrated through learning and tutorials.

### **Learner Support:**

Support is fundamental to the ethos of the College and as such, strong and effective learner support services are already established who:

- Listen to what is happening in the College and environs
- Support at risk learners through the pastoral framework, safeguarding and crime prevention processes
- Challenge discriminatory behaviour

### **Learner Engagement:**

Learner voice is key to the College and this process reaches a wide range of learners through a variety of different formats:

- Volunteering
- Ambassador roles
- The Student Union
- The Student Governors
- Learner focus groups
- The Student Affairs Committee
- Cross College tutorial programme of events

The College offers a number of campaigns throughout the year and these are included in the main College calendar. These campaigns provide opportunities to carry out overt and discreet Prevent work.

### **Local Partnerships:**

The College has some well-established partnerships in place and will continue to strengthen these to ensure the safeguarding of our College community. Establishing close working links with communities will enable the College to understand local issues and tensions and work with its leaders to challenge and displace unfounded beliefs.

Leicester is a priority area for the Government Prevent strategy as it is one of 46 national high risk areas. We recognise that this means the College is at greater risk due to its positioning and the demographic of our learners.

The city and county local authorities have a multi-agency Prevent Steering Group operating at strategic levels on which the post 16 sector is represented. Prevent leads from colleges/FEs across Leicester and Leicestershire form the FE Prevent network, and meet termly. This group then meets annually with the East Midlands FE Prevent Leads group.

The College actively works with the local police, local schools, local authorities and other agencies. This work is important to help understand potential tensions within our youth communities and support transition arrangements for some of the most vulnerable learners.

The College has a robust referral system developed alongside other post 16 providers and in liaison with the local Prevent agencies.