

# Prevent Policy

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## **1.1 Policy Statement**

Blackpool Football Club & Academy recognises its statutory and moral duty to promote and secure the welfare of its players, adopting a risk based approach to safeguarding, which assures the highest possible level of safety for players and the most positive impact on learning. This includes our obligation under the Prevent Duty (September 2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

## **1.2 Policy Aims**

To provide a safe and welcoming learning environment where the welfare of our players is paramount, and in which all learners are respected and valued, and are capable of making excellent progress in their learning, to become the most employable.

To assure safe staff recruitment procedures (including volunteers) built around DBS checks, thorough scrutiny of references and ongoing monitoring and review of practice.

To help staff and players alike to equip themselves with the information and awareness necessary on how to keep themselves and others safe.

To maintain and explicitly promote those procedures, which help to identify suspected cases of all forms of abuse or neglect, report and act upon them, in accordance with the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

To provide appropriate support to learners or staff who have been the victim of abuse or neglect. To contribute to effective partnership working between all those in the wider community involved in providing safeguarding services and the Club itself. This will include having due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

To work with those partners to provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when the additional needs of young people are identified.

## **1.3 Policy Principles**

To provide for an environment where safeguarding is thoroughly understood, embraced by all members of the Club and applied with a high degree of consistency.

To assure that Club & Academy resources in safeguarding are focused within a risk management approach that serves those groups identified as being relatively vulnerable. To assure compliance to the Equality Act, recognising the potentially relatively high risk of some learners with particular protected characteristics.

To support the Club & Academy's philosophy by promoting positive behavioural attitudes and appropriate British Values, to create an environment in which students feel safe, confident, able to make excellent progress in their learning and therefore become the most employable.

The Policy will be made readily available on the Club's website, and will be updated and approved by the Board on an annual basis.

## 1.4 The Prevent Duty

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. From 18 September 2015 the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (Section 26) has placed a further statutory duty on all education providers to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

At Blackpool Football Club & Academy we are committed to supporting vulnerable learners through our safeguarding policies and procedures and recognise that this will support the Club & Academy's contribution to the Prevent Duty. We build our player's resilience to radicalisation by promoting British Values and enabling our learners to challenge extremist views.

Blackpool Football Club & Academy has engaged positively with appropriate training to ensure that staff have the skills and knowledge to recognise any concerns and to refer them appropriately, as with any other safeguarding concern.

## 1.5 Board of Directors Responsibility and Prevent

The Board of Directors holds the overall responsibility for ensuring that the Club has policies, procedures and structures in place to support and promote the safety and well-being of all players and staff in its care, which includes adhering to the Prevent Duty. In practical terms this means;

- The Board of Directors has a specific role should an allegation be made against the Head of Academy.
- To ensure that the Club & Academy has procedures and policies which are consistent with legal guidelines and local needs, and complement the Club's responsibility under the Equality Act.
- To consider the Club & Academy's Safeguarding Policy on an annual basis, and ensure that it is available publicly.
- To ensure that the Club & Academy's strategy complies with the Prevent Duty, as set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- To show a commitment to safeguarding by completing the FA's Mandatory Safeguarding and Prevent training, and updating it every three years; thus satisfying the requirements of the FA
- To scrutinise the practice in the Club & Academy in relation to the Prevent Action Plan and Risk Assessment.
- To ensure that the Academy provides sufficient training for all staff to be able to recognise and refer anyone vulnerable to radicalisation to the appropriate person.
- To ensure that the Club & Academy operates 'safer recruitment' practice including DBS checks and the keeping and updating of the Single Central Record
- To ensure that allegations of abuse against members of staff are managed within the local authority procedures, and supervised by the Designated Officer (DSO)
- To ensure that their behaviour, that of managers and staff, the curriculum and policies exemplify British values. The Board have a responsibility to complement, support and oversee the work of the Safeguarding Committee.

## **2.0 Context and Legal Requirement**

2.1 The College's policy will be consistent with the full Prevent Strategy outlined here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

2.2 The full CONTEST strategy outlined by the Government can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest>

2.2.1 As part of the CONTEST strategy, Prevent aims to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat faced by the UK from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health) where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed

2.3 Definitions

2.3.1 The Club & Academy will follow relevant definitions laid out in the law of England and Wales and Government Policy.

2.3.2 Terrorism is defined in the Terrorism Act 2000 as: the use or threat which: involves serious violence against a person; involves serious damage to property; endangers a person's life (other than that of the person committing the act); creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or section of the public; or is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system. The use or threat of such action must be designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public or a section of the public and be undertaken for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

2.3.3 Extremism is defined in the Prevent Strategy as: vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.

2.3.4 Violent extremism defined in the Prevent Strategy as: the endorsement of violence to achieve extreme ends.

2.3.5 Radicalisation is defined in the Prevent Strategy as: the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

2.3.6 The Channel process 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. More information about Channel can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/425189/Channel\\_Duty\\_Guidance\\_April\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf)

## **Possible Signs of Radicalisation**

3.1 The Government does not specify what the signs of radicalisation are; it is likely that the most obvious sign of radicalisation will be extreme change in behaviour and this will vary from case to case. Below is a short list of the possible indicators to look out for. This list is not exhaustive.

1. Changes in ideology or faith
2. Narrowing of political views
3. Adoption of “Them” and “Us” mentality
4. Isolation from friends and family
5. Fervent public expression of strong anger or grievance about perceived injustice.
6. Attendance at certain rallies or meetings

### **Implementation of the Prevent Duty**

4.1 Speakers and Events Blackpool Football Club & Academy holds events, public meetings and lectures which may be led by an external speaker. A member of Blackpool Football Club & Academy staff will be in attendance at these meetings.

4.1.2 Prior to the guest speaker being present at the event, the speaker will be ‘vetted’ via recommendations from trusted agencies such as the League Football Education and The Football Association.

4.2 Internet Access Blackpool Football Club & Academy has implemented changes to its firewall. Parental access has been placed on the internet, meaning that certain websites cannot be accessed from the Club’s IP address. Secondly, all laptops available to players are only accessible via a member of staff and must have a member of staff present whilst they are using the internet.

### **Escalation if a Player or Member of Staff shows Signs of Radicalisation**

5.1 Any member of Blackpool Football Club & Academy (player or staff member) may express concerns about any member of Blackpool Football Club & Academy (player or staff member) potentially being drawn into violent extremism based on information received or behaviour observed.

5.2 Within Blackpool Football Club & Academy there are already mechanisms for counselling, guidance and pastoral care. These include a Welfare Officer, Psychologist and Counsellors. Changes in behaviour are likely to be identified using the current processes and staff will be able to respond appropriately. Staff are also encouraged to use the free counselling service offered by Blackpool Football Club & Academy if they have any concerns.

5.3 There may be circumstances where Blackpool Football Club & Academy identifies someone who is in need of intervention under the terms of this policy. If this happens, the following steps will followed.

5.4 If a player or member of staff is worried that a student is becoming radicalised or is radicalising others, this must be reported to the Safeguarding or Welfare Officer. The Welfare/Safeguarding Officer will pass the details on to the Prevent Officer. The Prevent Officer will investigate the matter.

5.5 If a player or member of staff is worried that a member of staff is becoming radicalised or is radicalising others, this must be reported to the Senior Safeguarding Officer. They will pass this on to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will take control in investigating the matter.

5.6 Once any available information and substantive evidence has been gathered, this will be considered by the Prevent Officer, in discussion with other members of the safeguarding team and Board of Directors where appropriate. The investigation and any evidence found will be recorded.

5.7 A decision will be made as to the seriousness of the case. Four potential outcomes are likely at this stage:

5.7.1 No further action is required and this will be recorded on the staff file and relevant staff informed.

5.7.2 There is substance to the case but at this stage only internal action is required. The exact nature of the intervention required will be determined by discussion between the investigating team. Actions and a review date will be agreed. This will be recorded in on the staff file. Relevant staff will be informed. At the review, the case will be assessed again and the appropriate actions taken.

5.7.3 Blackpool Football Club & Academy may choose to refer the person to the Channel process as an action point. This is a voluntary safeguarding process. Should Blackpool Football Club & Academy refer someone to the Channel process, the Prevent Officer will attend the relevant meetings.

5.7.4 A referral to the police is required because there are serious and immediate safety issues to the player, staff member or others, and/or there is evidence to suggest a criminal act may be committed or has been committed. This decision will only be taken in the most serious circumstances and only following discussions between the Prevent Officer and Board members.

5.8 If concerns are raised about any of the members of staff involved in the above process, they will be excluded from it.

5.9 Blackpool Football Club & Academy will handle personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998) and the specific requirements relating to prevent as prescribed by Law.

5.10 Contact with the Regional Prevent Coordinator is the responsibility of the Prevent Officer and Board members. The Prevent Officer and Board members will be responsible for coordination with relevant bodies in the event of the Club or Academy having concerns.

5.11 The Prevent Officer and/ or Deputy Prevent Officer will also:

- Attend any training or conferences required to keep up to date on Prevent matters
- Meet regularly to discuss any matters arising
- Keep the Prevent Policy up to date
- Liaise with the relevant monitoring bodies