

# **Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council**

## **Prevent Action Plan 2025-2028**

---



[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

## Introduction

Tonbridge & Malling is a relatively safe place to live with most crime types continuing to reduce. However, we also live in a global community which means we are affected by trends and events that occur at an international level. We therefore need to consider the international threat of terrorism and those people who are pulled into groups that support extremist causes.

In Tonbridge & Malling, authorities and communities are working together to deliver the Government's Prevent Strategy. Prevent is one of four objectives which make up the Government's Strategy for Countering Terrorism – CONTEST – with the other objectives being Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

The Prevent Strategy has three key objectives:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

The Prevent Strategy was set up to challenge all forms of terrorism, including the influence of far-right extremists. It defines extremism 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”.

The United Kingdom currently faces a range of terrorist threats. All terrorist groups that pose a threat to the UK seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. A system of threat levels has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. At the time of writing this plan, the current Government threat level from international terrorism in the UK is ‘substantial’ which means that a terrorist attack is likely.

This is the third Action Plan that has been developed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and will build on the work of the first two plans. This plan will look at any work that still needs to be identified to tackle this issue. It will reflect actions both within the Council itself (for its staff and Members) but will also look wider at the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

## Our Statutory Responsibilities

### Prevent Duty

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a new Prevent Duty for specified authorities which means they must have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” in the exercise of their functions. The Duty applies to local authorities at the county and district/borough level, schools, colleges and universities, health and social care, criminal justice, and the police.

Home Office guidance on the Duty states that for all specified authorities those in leadership positions are expected to:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty
- Ensure staff implement the duty effectively

The full guidance document is available at:

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

Whilst each specified authority has this new Duty, the guidance does not expect organisations and institutions to tackle the issue alone. It clearly states that Prevent work depends on effective partnership working and expects coordination of this activity through a multi-agency forum. Tonbridge & Malling will therefore link in with the Kent County Council Prevent Team who have also produced their own Action Plan. The KCC Prevent Team run the Channel Panel process for individuals at risk of extremism or radicalisation. They also provide support to schools and educational establishments, as well as leading on the work of Prevent across the county.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 received Royal Assent on Thursday 3 April 2025. Known as ‘Martyn’s Law’ this will set out a coherent and proportionate approach to protective security. It applies to any place or space to which the public have access. It consists of 5 requirements. That spaces and places to which the public have access:

- engage with freely available counter-terrorism advice and training;
- conduct vulnerability assessments of their operating places and spaces;
- mitigate the risks created by the vulnerabilities;
- put in place have a counter-terrorism plan;
- and a requirement for local authorities to plan for the threat of terrorism.

The Government intends for there to be an implementation period of at least 24 months before the Act comes into force. This period will enable those responsible for premises and events to have sufficient time to understand their new obligations, and to plan and prepare accordingly. The Borough Council will therefore need to await further guidance about the specific requirements of the Act to ensure that it is adhering to these and will then develop these further during the lifetime of this action plan.

Whilst this Action Plan has been developed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, we have also consulted with the Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership. This ensures that this document is signed up to and supported by all of the specified authorities within Tonbridge & Malling. It aims to bring all Prevent work together into one place to ensure a strategic and coordinated approach which maximises the use of available resources in tackling the issue. It is designed to be a high-level document which meets the broad needs of the specified authorities. Specified authorities are expected to have their own local delivery plans which complement the wider county approach.

## Action Plan April 2025 – March 2028

The Tonbridge & Malling Prevent Action Plan has been designed to support the national strategy objectives of:

1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.

### 1. **Ideology:** Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.

All terrorist groups have an ideology; a body of doctrine or belief that guides them. Promoting this ideology facilitates radicalisation and recruitment. Disrupting the ability of terrorists to promote these concepts is a key part of Prevent work. In order to allow the relevant authorities to disrupt extremist ideology there must also be increased awareness as to what constitutes this type of ideology, and how staff can take action.

Ref.	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?	Lead agency	Timescale	Outcomes
1.1	Ensure staff understand Prevent, are able to identify ideologies which may fall within this and are aware of appropriate referral mechanisms	Run at least one training session for TMBC staff, (as appropriate) during the period of the Action Plan	TMBC	By March 2028	
1.2	Ensure that elected members (and any newly elected members following any elections) understand Prevent, are able to identify ideologies which may fall within this and are aware	Run a training session for Members to make them aware of the Prevent Strategy	TMBC	By March 2028	Training for Members was held on 8 May with over 20 Councillors in attendance.

Ref.	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?	Lead agency	Timescale	Outcomes
	of appropriate referral mechanisms.				
1.3	Use the Community Safety Unit Weekly meetings to raise issues around individuals or emerging community tensions	Add an agenda item around 'Prevent' to the Weekly CSU meeting.	TMBC	Ongoing	
1.4	Monitor emerging threats/risks/ideology and raise to staff/partners as appropriate	Link in with the KCC Prevent Team to understand emerging trends/risks.  Arrange training for any new emerging trends as appropriate.	TMBC	By March 2028	

**2. Individuals:** Prevent individuals from being radicalised and drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.

Radicalisation is usually a gradual process, not an event. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity. The primary method of co-ordinating support for someone during this period will be through the multi-agency *Channel* process.

The Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) provides an overview of the general and local threats from terrorism. It also describes information at a district level to support the Local Authority and key partners in forming this action plan. All authorities with a duty

under Prevent must ensure that staff and elected members understand signs of vulnerability and know the correct referral routes, so that vulnerable individuals receive the support they need.

The process of assessing the risk posed is ongoing and passing information back to police will allow it to be assimilated into the intelligence picture to enable future risk assessments to be as current as possible. Opportunities to engage with the public and businesses will also be used to disseminate key messages.

Ref.	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?	Lead agency	Timescale	Outcomes
2.1	Assess risks from extremism	We will input relevant data into the Counter-Terrorism Local Profile and use the completed document to help assess risks in the borough	TMBC/ Kent Police	Ongoing	
2.2	Raise awareness of radicalisation amongst the general public; and outline the process for reporting concerns.	We will ensure that there is information provided on the TMBC website (and other partner's websites if appropriate). We will use Social Media to raise awareness	TMBC	Ongoing	
2.3	Support the delivery of the Channel process	We will attend Channel Panel meetings when appropriate and ensure that information is provided when requested to do so	TMBC	Ongoing	

Ref.	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?	Lead agency	Timescale	Outcomes
2.4	Ensure facilities owned by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council are not used as a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.	Ensure all appropriate staff have received 'Venue Hire' training and that this is considered when applications are considered/granted	TMBC	Ongoing	
2.5	Ensure that the Borough Council is fulfilling its duties under 'Martyn's Law'	Consider the requirements contained within 'Martyn's Law' and work to achieve these	TMBC	Ongoing	

### 3. Overarching Principles

The two previous actions relate to the objectives identified in the national strategy; however there are several themes which run throughout the strategy which are vital for successful implementation. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will use its role within the Community Safety Partnership to assist partner agencies in fulfilling duties in the local area. It will also be necessary to monitor activity of partners to ensure that actions are effective; consistent with other areas of Kent; and that our plan takes on board good practice identified elsewhere.

The appropriate sharing of information between partner agencies is another critical function to see that opportunities to safeguard an individual, or avert extremist action are not missed.

Ref.	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?	Lead agency	Timescale	Outcomes
4.1	Ensure statutory partners understand the importance of Prevent work at a strategic level.	Prevent will be raised at the CSP Strategy Group as appropriate and training will be given to partners during the three-year period.	TMBC	Ongoing	
4.2	Ensure practices are consistent with work across other areas of Kent.	We will share best practice with other Borough/District Councils and Community Safety Partnerships.	TMBC	Ongoing	
4.3	Share communication/training from the KCC Prevent Team with the Community Safety Partnership and other key partners.	Circulate emails/communication with partners	TMBC	Ongoing	
4.4	Engagement with a range of community and faith groups to build community involvement and confidence in local Prevent delivery.	Attend relevant community/faith groups to discuss concerns with them.  Ensure Members are aware of Prevent when engaging with different members of the public	TMBC	Ongoing	