

Middlesex University Prevent Duty – Briefing Note for Students (Hendon-based, collaborative partner based and apprentices)

Key Points of the Prevent Duty

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 outlines a package of measures aimed at countering the risk of terrorism and radicalisation and is part of the government's strategy to reduce terrorism in the UK. The act imposes a duty on "specified authorities", including Universities, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Universities became subject to the new 'Prevent' duty on 18 September 2015.

Prevent duty guidance emphasises the need for a risk-based, proportionate approach, and requires institutions to have policies and procedures that address the general expectations of the guidance and that are actively applied. To comply with the duty, universities and higher education institutions are expected to be delivering in a number of areas.

Actions we have taken

Risk assessment – we have assessed the risk of where and how individuals might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. An action plan has been drawn up to mitigate against the perceived risks. Both the risk assessment and action plan are reviewed on an annual basis by the Prevent Implementation Working Group (a sub-group of Safeguarding Board tasked to oversee the implementation of the Prevent duty).

Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech – this code of practice describes our risk-based approach with regards to external speakers, whether on-campus, at branded events off campus or on-line. . In addition, the University supports its Students' Union approach to external speakers and their 'No Platform Policy'.

Safeguarding – the University has positioned the Prevent duty under Safeguarding and has developed a Care and Concern procedure to respond to Wellbeing concerns.

Staff Training – a training plan has been developed to ensure appropriate staff receive Prevent awareness training and other training, including generic Safeguarding training which explains how to refer to Care and Concern.

Prayer Room - The University supports the work of the Prayer Room Stakeholders Group, especially the guidelines on the use of the prayer rooms which have operated successfully since academic year 2013/14.

IT Systems - The Computer Use Policy for Student has been updated to make explicit reference to the Prevent duty.

Students' Union - The University respects the Students' Union position with regards to the Prevent duty. However, we are keeping the Students' Union informed about the action the University is taking to fulfil its statutory Prevent duty through informal meetings with sabbatical officers.

David Malpas, Director of Student Affairs, January 2022