

ARTICLE 18 - CHANNEL PANEL

Sections 36 to 41 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out the duty on local authorities and partners of local panels to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Channel 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 from radicalisation and extremism by:

- Identifying individuals at risk
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk, and
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned.

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

Gateshead Channel Panel is accountable to Gateshead Contest Board which is a sub-group of the Gateshead Community Safety Board.

The Channel Panel meetings are arranged, facilitated and supported by the Democratic Services section within Gateshead Council.

Channel Panel – Chairing Arrangements:

- Chair – Service Manager, Safeguarding, Protection and Social Work Standards
- Deputy Chair – Practise Leader, Children’s Services, Gateshead Council

Channel Panel – Core Membership:

- Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne, and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- Gateshead Council officers covering Adult Services, Children’s Services, Community Safety, Housing, Education. Housing Services, Legal and Democratic Services and Private Sector Housing
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northumbria Police – Counter Terrorism Case Officer
- Northumbria Police – Central Engagement Team