Interim Guidance to support the management of Non-Ideological Extreme Violence Concerns: Factsheet – October 2026

Why the guidance has been produced, what gap does it address and how it should be used.

This interim guidance has been developed collaboratively with frontline practitioners and Government departments to help partners ensure that concerns for non-ideological extreme violence (NIEV) risks are managed consistently, and have clear ownership, support and oversight.

This guidance applies where there are NIEV-related concerns - or where concerns emerge at a later stage - but the person is not considered at risk of becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism. It is not intended to pre-judge the outcome of Phase 2 of the Southport Inquiry, which is examining, among other things, the adequacy of local arrangements for managing non-ideological extreme violence risk.

What is NIEV?

The current working policy definition describes NIEV as the use or threat of extreme violence, not driven by a clear ideological purpose, which is communicative in nature and intended to shock, intimidate or outrage the public or a section of the public.

The definition provides a conceptual understanding to support policy development; it is not intended to be statutory, legal or operational. There is no single NIEV profile or pathway. NIEV concerns may involve a combination of factors such as intense grievance, hatred of society, violence fascination, personal vulnerabilities, and engagement with online environments that normalise, celebrate or facilitate violence. No single factor should be treated as evidence of risk in isolation. Practitioners should consider how multiple factors interact within the person's wider circumstances and needs.

What gap is the guidance intended to address?

The guidance helps partners identify and manage residual safeguarding, vulnerability, violence and public protection concerns through appropriate local arrangements, so that cases do not fall between services or lose clear ownership.

A decision that a person does not meet the threshold for Prevent support relates specifically to whether they are at risk of becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism. It does not mean that the person presents no wider risk of violence or harm.

Who is the guidance for and how should it be used?

It is intended for practitioners and partners who may identify, assess, refer, support or manage children or adults presenting with NIEV-related concerns, including professionals working in social care, community safety, education, health, safeguarding and policing. It should be used alongside existing legal duties, thresholds and safeguarding, public protection, policing and Prevent guidance.

- **Use appropriate local arrangements:** use established safeguarding, early help, public protection, violence reduction and policing pathways. There is no expectation that additional structures should be established, although proportionate new or enhanced arrangements may be appropriate where existing structures are insufficient.
- **Support a holistic response:** consider the risks posed by and to the person, relevant vulnerabilities and protective factors, and how multiple concerns interact.
- **Maintain coordination:** share relevant information lawfully, keep decisions, onward routes and lead responsibility clear, and escalate unresolved risk through established safeguarding, policing or public protection arrangements.
- **Risk ownership:** When a case is transferred, referred or closed, practitioners should record the decision, rationale and actions taken, including how relevant statutory responsibilities have been met, the onward route, and confirmation that the receiving service has formally accepted responsibility for continued oversight and risk management. Where no single framework or agency can assume ownership, relevant partners should agree appropriate risk management arrangements.
- **Notify policing where appropriate:** potential public protection risks should be notified to local policing to enable appropriate assessment and oversight.

What does the guidance change—and what does it not change?

The guidance provides an interim framework to help partners apply existing responsibilities more consistently to NIEV-related concerns. It does not create new statutory duties, structures or processes, replace professional judgement, or change the purpose of Prevent.

Prevent remains the appropriate route where there is concern that a person may be at risk of becoming involved in or supporting terrorism; a clearly identifiable ideology is not required for a referral. If it is unclear whether a person may be at risk of becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism, practitioners should still consider whether to make a Prevent referral.