PREVENT RADICALISATION BASIC PREVENT AWARENESS
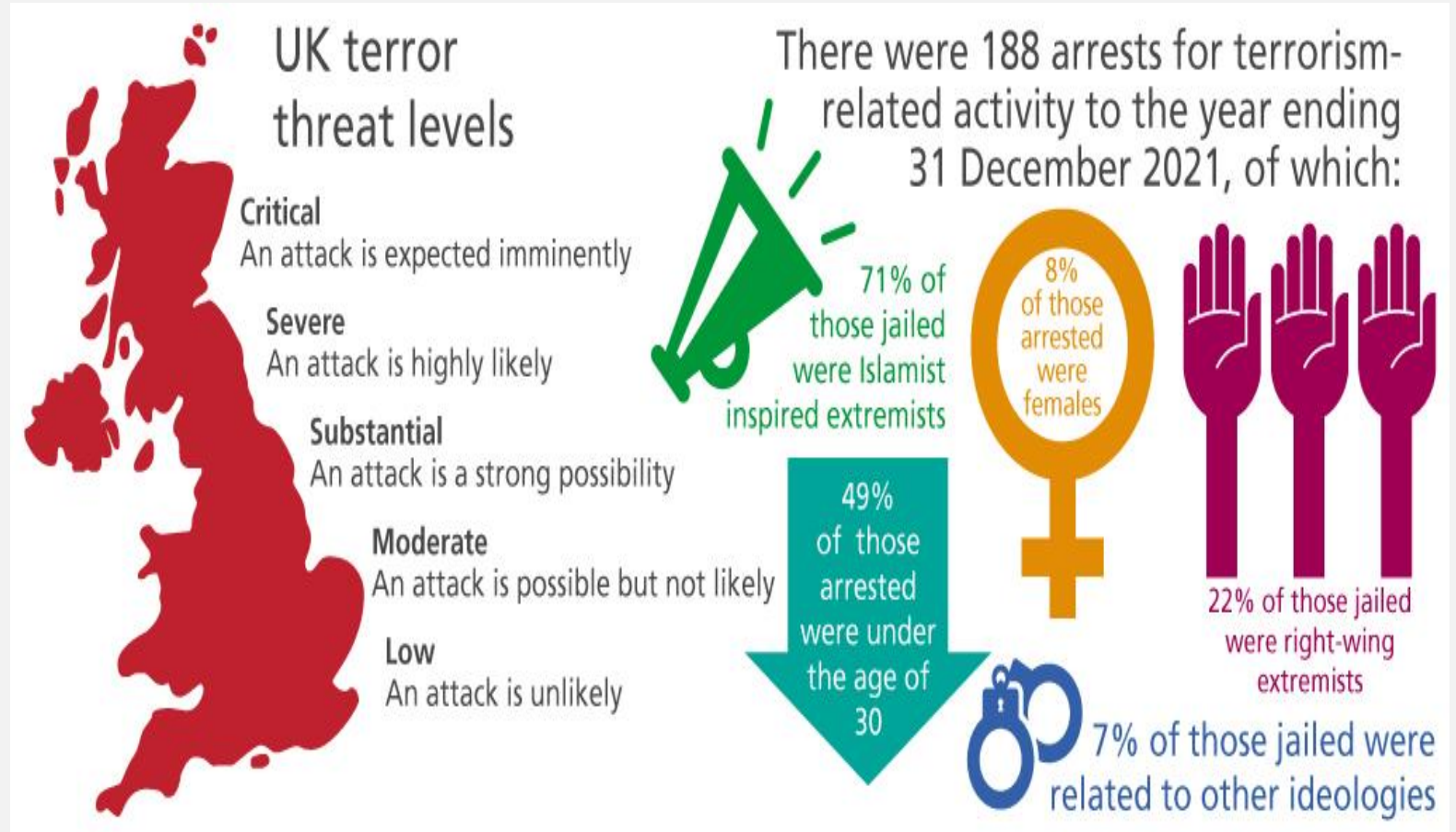
Governors Meeting, 16th March 2022

Homerton Childrens Centre

Dr. Surabhi Singh

PREVENT PROGRAMME

- 4,915 referrals to Prevent, in 2020-21

- Police made the highest number of referrals (1,770; 36%), followed by the Education sector (1,221; 25%)

UK terror threat levels

Critical
An attack is expected imminently

Severe
An attack is highly likely

Substantial
An attack is a strong possibility

Moderate
An attack is possible but not likely

Low
An attack is unlikely

There were 188 arrests for terrorism-related activity to the year ending 31 December 2021, of which:

71% of those jailed were Islamist inspired extremists

8% of those arrested were females

49% of those arrested were under the age of 30

22% of those jailed were right-wing extremists

7% of those jailed were related to other ideologies

WHAT IS PREVENT ?

- UK faces threat from all forms of terrorism due to vulnerable people been radicalised and drawn into terrorism, particularly with the growth of social media, online forums and gaming apps

- Prevent is part of the British Government's programme for tackling terrorism. This programme is called CONTEST and it has four key work streams-

- Pursue- Trying to stop terrorist attacks from happening.

- **Prevent -** Safeguarding and supporting those at most risk of radicalisation

- Protect **-** Trying to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.

- Prepare **-** Trying to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

AIMS OF PREVENT

- Prevent is a safeguarding process, which focuses **on all forms of extremism** and operates in a **non-criminal space**

- Prevent is about identifying people who are vulnerable to being exploited or 'groomed' or 'radicalised' by a terrorist organisation or its propaganda, but BEFORE they actually get involved in such organisations or commit any terrorist act.

- Prevent takes a 'Safeguarding' approach to such people, and tries to help them to choose a different path, offering them mentoring, or access to services and support tailored to their needs.

ROLE OF PREVENT AWARENESS

- Prevent does not require you to do anything in addition to your normal duties or safeguarding responsibilities.

- Recognise when you should be concerned about someone who is vulnerable to being radicalised

- Know how to contact your organisation's Prevent lead (usually part of the Safeguarding team)

- Understand how the Prevent lead will take this forward

FACTORS THAT MAY CAUSE VULNERABILITY

- **Mental health factors -** mental illness, autism, learning disabilities, poor self esteem

- **Difficult life experiences -** isolation, family upheaval, exclusion from mainstream due to racism, poverty, unemployment, struggles due to migration, previous conviction, drug/alcohol abuse

- **Who you know and who you meet** – exposed to setting with people of extreme views, online extremist propaganda, targeting by groups recognising vulnerabilities, peer pressure from individuals radicalised themselves, criminal gangs

- **External influences-** war or sanctions on country/group, national policies empowering selective groups/objectives, increase in extremist violence as means to achieving political ends, dominance of ideologies which disempower other groups in society

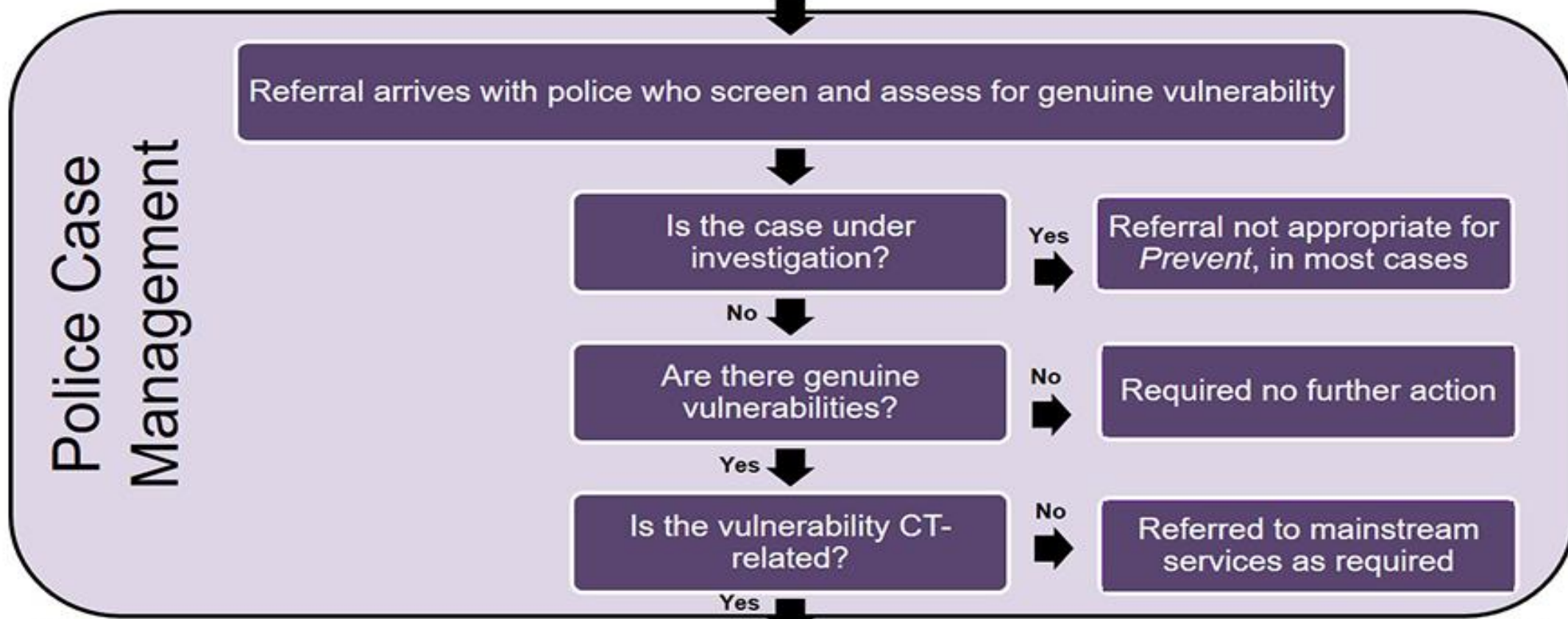- **Criminality** – already involved in crime/violence, radicalisation in prison

SIGNS AN INDIVIDUAL IS BEING GROOMED

- **Change in behaviour** – withdrawn, go missing , possess or search for extremist literature online, aggressive and fixated with certain ideas or political views, use unusual or scripted speech (those used by hate preachers)

- **Change in views and interests -** conviction that their religion, culture or beliefs are under threat and treated unjustly, tendency to look for conspiracy theories and distrust of mainstream media, preoccupied with feelings of hatred or anger for mainstream or minority groups, using language that supports 'us and them' thinking, new friendship groups

- **Change in appearance -** Changing dress or style to accord with a new group or ideology, using materials and literature, tattoos or symbols associated with an extremist cause

- **Online Activity -** changes in online profiles, including profile image or name or using encrypted apps to communicate,

ACTIONS TO TAKE IF CONCERNS

- Staff in public facing organisations are subject to statutory duty through the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** to safeguard people from being drawn into terrorism

- Any concern that a service user/colleague/any person you know, is at risk or being radicalised, should be raised with line manager/ safeguarding lead/local authority safeguarding team/police

- All Prevent referrals are confidential and do not result in a criminal record or any other form of sanction

- Follow DPA/GDPR principles when sharing information. Consider taking consent, safety of person and others when reporting concerns.

Person with concerns about an individual who may be radicalised makes a referral to the police or through their local authority safeguarding hub by following local safeguarding practices

Police Case Management

Referral arrives with police who screen and assess for genuine vulnerability

Is the case under investigation? — **Yes** → Referral not appropriate for *Prevent*, in most cases

No ↓

Are there genuine vulnerabilities? — **No** → Required no further action

Yes ↓

Is the vulnerability CT-related? — **No** → Referred to mainstream services as required

Yes ↓

Channel

Multi-agency Channel panel gathers further information from partners and meets to consider the referrals, agree level of vulnerability and what kind of support may be required, if any

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Support provided if appropriate

THE CHANNEL PROGRAMME (ENGLAND &WALES)

- An initiative that provides a multi-agency approach to support people vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation

- Channel panel chaired by the Local Authority, and includes representatives from education and health services, discuss the extent of the vulnerability, and circumstances of the case, and decide whether to adopt the individual as a Channel case

- Prevent referrals that may be appropriate for Channel are recorded on the Prevent Case Management Tracker (PCMT).

- Information sharing is strictly within the terms of the DPA & GDPR

- Participation in the Channel programme is confidential, and consent is obtained before hand

- A Channel panel may decide that a person's vulnerabilities are not terrorism-related and will refer the person to other forms of support

THE CHANNEL PROGRAMME (ENGLAND &WALES)

- Tailored support is provided based on the needs identified for an individual- educational, vocational, mental health or ideological mentoring

- Channel panel will review the progress of an individual on monthly basis

- After an individual has left the Channel programme, their progress will be reviewed after 6 and 12 months, they can re-enter the programme if further radicalisation concerns are present.

- Drop outs of the Channel programme get alternative support for LA, police manages their terrorism risk

REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

- https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/individuals-referred-to-and-supported-through-the-prevent-programme-april-2020-to-march-2021

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice

- https://populationwellbeingportal.e-lfh.org.uk/

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-service-framework-children-young-people-and-maternity-services

- https://cks.nice.org.uk/child-maltreatment-recognition-and-management

THANK YOU