Volunteer It Yourself Prevent Policy and Risk Assessment

Document	**Prevent Policy and Risk Assessment**
Date of original document	**September 2024**
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Latest document revisions	**November 2026**
Revised by	**Ed Sellwood, Kim Sadler**
Approved by	**VIY Board**
Next review date	**October 2027**

1. Policy Statement

Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all volunteers, staff, partners, and the wider community. In line with the Prevent Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, VIY will take all reasonable steps to protect individuals from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

2. Purpose

- To outline VIY's approach to preventing radicalisation and extremism.
- To ensure volunteers, staff, and stakeholders understand their responsibilities.
- To promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment across all VIY projects.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All VIY staff, volunteers, mentors, contractors, and trustees.
- All participants and visitors to VIY projects, sites, or online platforms.

4. Definitions

- Radicalisation: The process by which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies.
- Extremism: Vocal or active opposition to fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect.

5. Roles & Responsibilities

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Main point of contact for Prevent concerns within VIY.
- All Staff & Volunteers: Remain vigilant, complete Prevent awareness training, and report concerns.
- Management/Trustees: Ensure policy compliance, provide oversight, and review annually.

6. Risk Assessment

VIY will conduct an annual Prevent risk assessment to identify local threats, vulnerabilities, and the likelihood of exposure to extremist influences within project communities.

7. Training & Awareness

- All staff and volunteers will complete Prevent awareness training.
- Young people and participants will be encouraged to develop critical thinking skills and resilience to extremist narratives.

8. Reporting Concerns

- Concerns should be reported immediately to the DSL.
- The DSL will assess and, if necessary, refer to the local Prevent team or police.

9. Online Safety

VIY will implement appropriate monitoring, guidance, and education to reduce online radicalisation risks for staff, volunteers, and participants.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.

Volunteer It Yourself Prevent Risk Assessment

1. Purpose

This risk assessment supports the Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) Prevent Policy by identifying potential risks of radicalisation and extremism within our projects and outlining mitigating actions.

2. Risk Identification

- **Community Context**: Assess local demographics, community tensions, or known extremist activity.
- **Volunteer & Participant Profile**: Consider age, background, and vulnerabilities of young people and volunteers.
- **Project Environment**: Review venues, online platforms, and partner organisations for exposure risks.
- **External Influences**: Monitor risks from social media, peer groups, or external visitors.

3. Risk Factors

Risk Area	Potential Issue	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Community	Presence of extremist groups locally	Medium	High	Liaise with local Prevent team and community leaders
Volunteers	Young people vulnerable to online grooming	High	High	Provide online safety training and monitoring
Project Sites	Unsupervised areas or lack of safeguarding presence	Medium	Medium	Ensure staff/mentors are present and vigilant
Online Platforms	Exposure to extremist content	High	High	Implement filtering, monitoring, and awareness sessions

4. Mitigation Actions

- Deliver Prevent awareness training for staff, mentors, and volunteers.
- Promote critical thinking and resilience among young participants.
- Maintain clear reporting routes to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

- Strengthen online safety measures across VIY platforms.
- Engage with local safeguarding boards and Prevent coordinators.

5. Monitoring & Review

- Risk assessment reviewed annually or sooner if local/national risks change.
- DSL to monitor incidents and update trustees.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, and participants incorporated into reviews.