



Hostlink UK Prevent Duty, Anti-Radicalisation and Counter-Terrorism Policy

1. Purpose

Hostlink UK is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students and protecting them from all forms of abuse, exploitation and harm, including the risks of radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

This policy supports our safeguarding responsibilities and explains how staff, homestay hosts, volunteers and contractors should recognise, respond to and report concerns relating to radicalisation or extremist behaviour.

This policy should be read alongside the Hostlink UK Safeguarding Policy, Student Welfare Policy, Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all Hostlink UK employees;
 - homestay hosts and adult members of the host household;
 - volunteers;
 - contractors;
 - accommodation officers;
 - agents and partners working on behalf of Hostlink UK where appropriate.
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3. Our Commitment

Hostlink UK promotes an environment that is safe, inclusive and respectful of diversity.

We recognise that students have the right to express their views, beliefs and opinions freely, provided these do not encourage hatred, violence, discrimination or criminal activity.

Hostlink UK has a zero-tolerance approach to:

- terrorism;
- violent extremism;
- radicalisation;
- the promotion of hatred or violence;
- activities that place students or staff at risk.

We are committed to protecting students from being drawn into terrorism while respecting individual rights, freedom of belief and cultural diversity.

4. Prevent Duty

Hostlink UK recognises the principles of the UK's Prevent Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Although Hostlink UK is not a statutory education provider, we recognise our safeguarding responsibilities and will take appropriate action where concerns arise that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist influence.

5. Preventative Measures

Hostlink UK seeks to reduce the risk of radicalisation by:

- maintaining a strong safeguarding culture throughout the organisation;
 - promoting equality, inclusion, mutual respect and tolerance;
 - ensuring students know who they can speak to if they have concerns;
 - providing appropriate safeguarding and Prevent awareness training for relevant staff;
 - maintaining safer recruitment procedures;
 - carrying out suitability checks on homestay hosts in accordance with safeguarding requirements;
 - undertaking regular accommodation inspections and monitoring visits;
 - providing students with 24-hour emergency contact arrangements;
 - maintaining appropriate supervision and welfare arrangements for students under 18;
 - ensuring all host families and staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities;
 - investigating concerns promptly and taking appropriate action where necessary.
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6. Homestay Expectations

All homestay hosts are expected to provide a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for students.

Hosts must:

- treat all students fairly and without discrimination;
- promote respect for different cultures, religions and beliefs;
- avoid promoting extremist, discriminatory or hateful views;
- report safeguarding concerns immediately;
- comply with the Hostlink UK Code of Conduct;
- cooperate fully with safeguarding investigations where required.

Hostlink UK reserves the right to terminate any homestay arrangement where safeguarding concerns, extremist behaviour or other serious breaches of policy are identified.

7. Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for:

- remaining alert to safeguarding concerns;
- recognising possible indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation;
- following this policy and the Safeguarding Policy;
- reporting concerns promptly;
- maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with students;
- completing safeguarding and Prevent awareness training where required.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has overall responsibility for managing concerns relating to radicalisation and making referrals where appropriate.

8. Recognising Possible Concerns

There is no single profile of a person who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Possible indicators may include significant or unexplained changes in behaviour, expression of support for extremist violence, possession or distribution of extremist material, attempts to encourage others to support extremist ideologies, or behaviour that raises safeguarding concerns.

These indicators should never be viewed in isolation and do not automatically mean an individual is being radicalised.

Concerns should always be assessed carefully, objectively and without discrimination.

9. Reporting Concerns

Any concern relating to possible radicalisation or extremist behaviour should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or, in their absence, a senior manager.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- assess the concern;
- maintain appropriate records;
- seek advice where necessary;
- determine whether referral to external agencies is required;
- ensure appropriate support is provided to the student.

Where there is an immediate threat to life or public safety, staff or hosts must contact the Police by calling 999 before informing Hostlink UK.

Where appropriate, referrals may be made to the Police Prevent Team, Children's Social Care, the Local Authority or other relevant safeguarding agencies.

10. Student Welfare

Hostlink UK recognises that students studying abroad may experience loneliness, stress, homesickness or emotional difficulties.

Where concerns relate to wellbeing rather than criminal behaviour, students will be offered appropriate pastoral support, safeguarding assistance and signposting to relevant services.

Supportive intervention will always be considered alongside safeguarding responsibilities.

11. Accommodation and Supervision

Hostlink UK maintains appropriate safeguarding arrangements for students under 18, including:

- carefully selected and approved homestay accommodation;
- regular accommodation monitoring;
- emergency contact arrangements available 24 hours a day;
- age-appropriate supervision and curfews agreed with parents, schools and group leaders;
- risk assessments where appropriate.

Accommodation arrangements are designed to safeguard student welfare and comply with British Council Accreditation UK requirements.

12. Training

Relevant staff involved in safeguarding responsibilities receive regular safeguarding and Prevent awareness training appropriate to their role.

Homestay hosts receive guidance on:

- recognising safeguarding concerns;
- reporting procedures;
- professional boundaries;
- student welfare responsibilities;
- maintaining a safe and inclusive home environment.

13. Confidentiality

Information relating to concerns of radicalisation or terrorism will be shared only with those who need to know in order to protect the welfare of the individual or others and in accordance with data protection legislation.

14. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, following any legislative changes, updated safeguarding guidance or significant safeguarding incident.

Hostlink UK is committed to continually improving its safeguarding arrangements and ensuring compliance with British Council Accreditation UK standards and current UK safeguarding legislation.

Last updated July 2026

Next review July 2027