

# Expression of interest

# Title: Prevent and Counter-Extremism in Further Education Colleges (FE)

**Project reference: 2017/083**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: 5pm Monday 8th January 2018**

## Summary

Expressions of interest are sought to conduct qualitative research into the perceptions of staff and students within a small sample of General Further Education (GFE) colleges in England of the Prevent duty and counter extremism (CE) policy. This includes exploring perceptions of how the policy is implemented in individual GFE colleges and perceptions of the impact on students. The research should commence as early as possible in 2018 with headline findings available by August 2018.

## Background

‘Prevent’ is a key strand of the government’s overall counter-terrorism strategy, [CONTEST](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/contest). The Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) introduced a statutory duty for all further education and skills providers in England to have ‘due regard’ to the need to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. The statutory [‘Prevent’ duty guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance) for the FE sector, published in September 2015, set out how providers were expected to meet the new duty. This included the requirement for staff to exemplify fundamental British values, including through opportunities in the FE curriculum. In addition, the FE sector featured in the Counter Extremism Strategy, published in October 2015.

An internal review of the literature (available to all candidates at ITT stage) has identified the need for a stronger evidential basis on how FE college institutions and educational professionals have understood, implemented and experienced the Prevent duty and its impact on students. The research will inform policy thinking by helping policy-makers consider the impact of Prevent in FE and assess how far DfE’s support to the sector has supported its objectives; and by informing future support to the sector. This will help us better understand and shape the FE sector’s contribution to government’s overarching Prevent and CE agenda.

## Research aims

The aim of the project is to explore the Prevent duty and CE policy in FE colleges in England in terms of:

* perceptions of FE college leaders, teachers and students;
* perceptions of implementation in FE colleges; and,
* perceptions of impact on students.

The research questions below are indicative of the type of questions we expect to be able to answer from the data provided. They relate to GFE college leaders’, teachers’, and students’ perceptions of Prevent and CE, exploring what and why (context) and how (actions):

1. What are the perceptions within FE of different aspects of Prevent/CE policy and why? (**context**)
2. What are the perceptions within FE of how Prevent/CE policy is embedded within FE college policy and how it plays out in practice? (**actions**)
3. What is the perceived impact of Prevent/CE policy on FE learners? (**actions**)

## Methodology

All GFE colleges in England are in scope (currently 189). Aqualitative methodology and case study research design is required (with a small number of GFE colleges) and focus group and 1-1 telephone interviews with GFE leaders, teachers and students ensuring a representative mix of participants in each GFE college along (but not restricted to) ethnic, gender, religion and socio-economic lines. **Potential contractors are asked to consider and propose methodologies and methods they believe would be suitable for this project delivering rich data within the timescales and budget**.

## Timing

* Deadline for EOIs - 5pm 8th January 2018
* Invitation to Tender (ITT) issued - 12th January 2018
* Deadline for ITT submission - 5pm 2nd February 2018
* Potential clarification interviews (to be held in London) - 19th February 2018
* Inception meeting (to be held in London) - 5th March 2018 (TBC)
* Fieldwork - 26th March - 11th May 2018
* Headline Findings - 2nd July 2018
* Final report - 27th August 2018

## Assessment criteria

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

* Understanding of the Department’s requirements and the overarching policy context within which this work is being taken forward
* Experience of and proven ability to conduct ethical research on potentially sensitive issues
* A record of success in accessing and conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups with challenging samples on potentially sensitive issues
* Project management skills and ability to deliver to timescales and within budget
* Experience of conducting research in the FE sector.

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| Scoring: |
| 1.    No evidence/very poor |
| 2.    Poor evidence |
| 3.    Some evidence |
| 4.    Good evidence |
| 5.    Excellent evidence |

**Each one of these criteria has equal weighting.**

Expressions of interest submitted must be no more than 1000 words - anything longer will be disregarded.

| **Closing date for EOIs: 5pm 8th January 2018**  **Send your EOI form to: earl.kehoe@education.gov.uk** |
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## How to submit an expression of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the [Department’s Terms and Conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eoi-guide). You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

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