

## **RADICALISATION PREVENTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **CHILDREN AT RISK OF RADICALISATION AND EXPOSURE TO EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY**

Keeping children/young people safe from radicalisation is a safeguarding matter and should

be approached in the same way as other safeguarding risks.

Children/young people should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including,

but not limited to, those linked to religious ideologies, or to far right political extremism, extreme far right ideologies linked to white supremacy and extremist animal rights movements.

There is no standard profile of a child or young person likely to become involved in extremism

or act violently in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a short time.

Children and young people may be vulnerable to a range of risks as they pass through childhood

and adolescence. They may be exposed to new influences and potentially risky behaviours,

influence from peers or older people in their network or from the internet/social media

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE RADICALISED IN DIFFERENT WAYS:**

- They can be groomed either online or in person by people seeking to draw them into extremist activity. Their parents may not know about this or feel powerless to stop their child's radicalisation.
- They can be groomed by family members who hold harmful, extreme beliefs, including parents/carers and siblings who live with them and/or person(s) who live outside the family home but have an influence over their life.
- They can be exposed to violent, anti-social, extremist imagery, rhetoric and writings which can lead to the development of a distorted world view in which extremist ideology seems reasonable.
- They can be treated in a way that makes them feel they do not belong, e.g. When they travel to their country of origin they are seen as an outsider; when they return

to the country they reside in they are seen as an outsider.

- Additional factors include exposure to attacks on family members, friends and other community members due to their religious beliefs, having to deal with issues that make them feel there is no support from those in authority e.g. the police or the community. They may feel the need to become associated with gangs for protection or form their own gangs to protect either their community, family members or those from the similar religious beliefs.

Much like any other safeguarding concern, the potential danger for grooming children and vulnerable adults to engage with extremist narratives has been increased by the access to the internet and social media, enabling terrorist organisations and extremists to spread messages and recruit in a cyber space as well as a physical one. Consideration should be given to the possibility that sharing information with parents may increase the risk to the child/young person. However, parents can also be key in challenging radical views and should be included, unless there are clear reasons why not to.

## **GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

The Prevent duty was introduced by the Government to stop people from being drawn into

terrorism. More information on Prevent here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

A video providing information about how the Prevent programme works can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otc2eaRY32s>

Department for Education's website with information and advice for parents and professionals <http://educateagainsthate.com/>

## **EALING'S PREVENT PROGRAMME**

Ealing's Prevent programme is designed to support families, professionals, faith and community

settings with an aim to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism or extremism.

Workshops to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training is also available in Ealing. This training helps staff/volunteers understand the issues and their role in recognising extremism and radicalisation and knowing when to make an appropriate referral. To access this training, visit [www.ealingcpd.org.uk](http://www.ealingcpd.org.uk)

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

Staff from all agencies with concerns about a child or young person's vulnerability to extremism or risk of radicalisation should:

- Make a clear written record of the concerns they have heard and/or witnessed.
- Contact the Ealing Prevent team on 020 8825 9849 to explore these concerns and the context for the young person e.g. sources of information; friendship groups; interests; access to IT and other relevant background and protective factors.
- Ealing Prevent may advise you to make a formal referral to ECIRS.
- Where there are low level concerns – these may be managed by universal services and the family themselves.
- ECIRS and Prevent will work together to ascertain whether the Prevent threshold has been met. If met, Ealing Prevent may refer to the Channel Panel (a multi-agency panel designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour).
- Where there is imminent threat of harm to others, the Police (999) or Terrorist hotline (0800 789 321) must be contacted.

## DEFINITIONS

“Radicalisation”- refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

“Extremism”- is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy,

the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Extremism also includes calls for death of members of the armed forces.

THIS POLICY WAS LAST REVIEWED AND UPDATED ON 18/08/2024 BY:

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