

Personal Development Resources

Safeguarding – Radicalisation



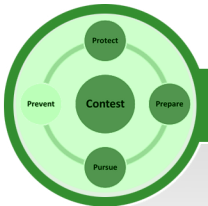
Quick Guide to Radicalisation

Prevent is about safeguarding individuals from being drawn into terrorism, ensuring those vulnerable to extremist and terrorist narratives are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage.



The Prevent Strategy

- Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism.
- There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views.
- The views included justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.



The Government Counter-Terrorism Strategy

CONTEST

In the UK we need to address not only the immediate threat of terrorist attacks but the longer term factors which enable extremist groups to grow and flourish.

The UK's counter-terrorism strategy, known as CONTEST, aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

Contest has **four areas of work**.

1. **Prevent:** aims to stop people becoming or supporting terrorism. This is delivered in partnership with a wide range of organisations
2. **Protect:** aims to strengthen our protection against a terror attack and reduce vulnerability
3. **Pursue:** aims to disrupt and stop terrorist attacks wherever possible by prosecuting those who have engaged in terrorist-related activity
4. **Prepare:** aims to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack has happened



What is Extremism?

Definition of Extremism: belief in and support for ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.

Violent Extremism or Terrorism encompasses violent behaviours that originate in an ideology shared at least by a limited group of individuals. Violent extremism includes training, preparation and the actual conduct of violent acts against civilians. Terrorists show a severe disconnect from society and tend to devalue or dehumanise their victims. Historically, individuals turned to terrorism when they saw no other possibility to achieve a specific political goal.



Types of Extremism

There are many different types of violent extremism. Motivations are varied and many usually relate to particular ideologies, examples are:

- political movements
- religious beliefs
- animal rights
- environmental issues
- economic issues

Here are some examples of extremist groups

- Far-right extremism e.g. Britain First and English Defence League
- Islamist extremism e.g. Daesh and Al-Qaeda
- Northern Ireland related extremism e.g. Irish Republican Army
- Extreme animal rights groups e.g. Animal Liberation Front



What is Radicalisation?

Definition of Radicalisation: a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo, or reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.

The process of radicalisation is different for each person, but there are some factors which can lead to individuals, and in particular, young people becoming radicalised.

Underpinning the radicalisation process is an extremist ideology that seems appealing and credible, often because it appears to make sense of the person's feelings of grievance or injustice.

Whilst radicalisation can take place face to face, there is a growing online risk.

The internet is increasingly being used by extremist groups to radicalise young people. These groups will often offer solutions to feelings of being misunderstood, not listened to, or being treated unfairly.

This activity often takes place on the "dark web" which goes unchecked and is untraceable.



Identifying Vulnerable People

We also have to challenge our own pre-conceived ideas and bias.

Consider the following:

- What does a potential terrorist look like?
- Can you guess who may be drawn into terrorism?
- Do we stereotype when we think about potential terrorists?

The truth is that there isn't one single profile of someone who may be at risk of being brought into terrorism

People who are vulnerable to becoming involved in terrorism can be from any age, from any group, faith, ethnicity or background

Radicalisation doesn't happen overnight, it is a gradual process that happens over time.

This makes it possible to intervene to steer vulnerable people away from being drawn into terrorist-related activities.

You can identify patterns of behaviour that show whether a person is **engaged** in an ideology, is **intent** on causing harm or **capable** of committing violent acts.

These are 3 important factors in identifying whether intervention is necessary:

- **Engagement**
- **Intent**
- **Capability**



Factors of Increased Vulnerability

Factors that may contribute to vulnerability:

- Extremist influences
- An event or series of traumatic events (Personal, Global or National)
- Recent or political or religious conversion
- Change in behaviour and/or appearance as a result of new influences
- Identity confusion
- Conflict with family over religious beliefs and/or lifestyle choices/extreme political views
- Victim or witness to race or religious hate crime
- Pressure from peers associated with extremism
- Rejected by peer, faith or social group or family
- Underachievement
- Possession of literature related to extreme views
- Experience of poverty, disadvantage or social exclusion

These are examples of what vulnerability might look like - not an exhaustive list



Possible Indicators of Radicalisation

Outward appearance:

- Becoming increasingly argumentative
- Refusing to listen to different points of view
- Unwilling to engage with children who are different
- Becoming abusive to children who are different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance
- Distancing themselves from old friends
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups

Online behaviour:

- Changing online identity
- Having more than one online identity
- Spending a lot of time online or on the phone
- Accessing extremist online content
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation



Raise Your Concerns

Radicalisation is a safeguarding concern, the same as any other.

If you believe that someone is being, or is at risk of being, drawn into violent extremism or terrorism, then please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team at t2 to discuss the situation as soon as possible.

The Safeguarding Team will ask you for clear, concise information so they can accurately assess a person's level of vulnerability.

When you refer an individual to the Safeguarding Team, it is useful to keep a record of your decision making.

Who to refer to:

Within t2, you should refer your concerns to:

Stacy Preston – Safeguarding and Prevent Lead

E-mail: stacy.preston@t2group.co.uk

Tel: 02920 799133 / 07876824157

Lisa Sheppard – Deputy Safeguarding and Prevent Lead

E-mail: lisa.sheppard@t2group.co.uk

Tel: 02920 799133 / 07881093484

You can also email the general Safeguarding Team email on safeguarding@t2group.co.uk

When a referral has been made, Stacy and the Safeguarding Team will decide if a referral to Prevent is required.

The Prevent Officer will make an initial assessment of the referral to see if the person is suitable for the Channel programme.

If a person is not suitable for Channel they will exit the process and be signposted to more appropriate safeguarding and support services. A referral may be inappropriate if:

- The person is deemed as not vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism
- The person is already being managed through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- The information is malicious, misguided or ill informed



What is Channel?

Channel is a confidential, voluntary multi-agency safeguarding programme that supports people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual is referred to the Channel panel after giving their consent to the referral. The Channel panel consists of representatives from various agencies that may include education, health and social services and Police. This programme runs in every Local Authority across England and Wales, with the intention of intervening early enough to protect vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to radicalisation before they become involved in terrorism-related activities.

After careful assessment, the Channel panel may put in place a support package in an effort to divert the referred individual away from extremist activity. Support could consist of solutions such as help with employment or education, and even individual mentoring on ideologies so that individuals can build resilience and gain the skills to think critically.



Real-Life Case Studies

1. Yusuf was seen handing out leaflets promoting a website containing extremist, homophobic and violent material

Yusuf, aged 24, was at university when a staff member saw him handing out leaflets. It so happened that the leaflets were promoting a website containing extremist, homophobic and violent material. She contacted the university Prevent coordinator who contacted the police. Yusuf was spoken to by student services and police, who felt that he was at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Yusuf had been befriended by older, radicalised men through late night discussions and weekend meetings. He had started to identify with extremist ideology, but he was confused. Yusuf began to move away from extremism after receiving chaplaincy and psychological support through Channel. He has now successfully completed his studies.



Real-Life Case Studies

2. Amina was reported to police about her intention to travel to Syria

Amina was in her late teens when a report was made to the police about her intention to travel to Syria. Amina had a deeply troubled life with her parents having been engaged in domestic violence. Her parents broke up and she lived with her father. She didn't have any friends and was lonely. She was also subjected to a serious assault. All these issues made her turn to religion for answers, however the religious guidance she sought online was uncontrolled. Her social media indicated that she had voiced support for Daesh and hatred for non-Muslims. Support through Channel enabled Amina to rebuild her relationship with her mother. A female counsellor addressed issues around religion, politics and self-esteem. Amina is now enjoying her new-found life.



Real-Life Case Studies

3. Callum's teacher became aware of his involvement in promoting the far-right on Facebook

Callum was a teenager whose teacher became aware of his involvement in promoting a far-right Facebook page which had upset another student. He had been invited to "secret" group meetings connected to football games. Without any family influence in his life, he was getting attention and social support through his involvement in this group. He said he didn't have a problem with most people - just Muslims: Muslims were not like "us". He said he'd watch them all "doing their Sharia law." Through the Channel process the school worked with the police, social care and a local youth group to support him through challenging the ideology he had developed. They provided him with careers advice and connected him to an ethnically diverse local youth group. His confidence grew, as did the bond with his family. He dismissed the ideology that he had connected himself to and realised he had been heading down the wrong path.



British Values

Fundamental British Values underpin what it is to be citizens in a modern and diverse Great Britain, valuing our community and celebrating diversity in the UK:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

British Values are not exclusive to being British and are shared by other democratic countries as a way of creating an orderly society where individuals can feel safe, valued and can contribute to the good of themselves and others.

Government Definition of Extremism: vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.



Further Information

Further information on preventing Radicalisation, Extremism and British Values can be found:

- **Safeguarding Guide for Learners** - <http://www.t2group.co.uk/pdf/safeguarding-guide-for-learners.pdf>
- **Safeguarding Policy** - <http://www.t2group.co.uk/pdf/policy-safeguarding.pdf>
- **Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Guide** - <http://www.t2group.co.uk/pdf/safeguarding-radicalisation-and-extremism.pdf>