

Information Sheet - Protecting people from radicalisation & PREVENT

Radicalisation simply means the process where someone is led to adopt extreme political, social and religious ideals and aspirations. This can lead to people supporting terrorism or getting involved in extremist activity.

There is no single model for radicalisation, the process is unique for each individual but there are some common signs of radicalisation

Possible Outward Behaviours

- Becoming increasingly argumentative and domineering in their viewpoint
- Ignoring views that contradict their own
- 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
- Expressing feelings of an 'us and them' mentality
- Making travel plans and being vague about their arrangements

It can be hard to differentiate between normal teenage behaviour and attitudes that indicate a child may have been exposed to radicalising influences. Trust your instinct if something feels wrong.

Radicalisation can happen anywhere, by anyone, however one of the biggest platforms where it takes place is on social media.

Online Behaviour

- Being increasingly secretive with online activities
- 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

Acts of violent extremism and hate crimes are committed by a small minority of people and are not representative of the public. However, people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation may be easily influenced by radical behaviour or extremist ideology.

Who may be vulnerable?

- Those in a transitional period in their lives. This may be as a result of a bereavement, family unit change or moving home;
- People suffering with poor mental health;
- Those seeking an identity or belonging;
- People with low self-esteem or confidence;
- Victims of bullying or race / hate crime;
- People who have undergone a recent religious conversion;
- Being rejected by peer, faith social groups or family;
- People who are in regular contact with others who have extremist views.

PREVENT

PREVENT is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy that aims to stop people supporting terrorism or getting involved in extremist activity

PREVENT works with partner agencies to provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensures they are given appropriate advice and support. It works in a similar way to programmes designed to safeguard people from gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse. It aims to provide early intervention, before a person gets drawn into terrorism, extremism and related criminal activity.

If you are worried about Radicalisation, terrorism or extremism don't wait until you are certain. Contact any of the following if you have concerns:

Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321 and a confidential online form which can be found at <https://www.met.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/ath/possible-terrorist-activity/>

Counter Terrorism Police <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/>

What happens when I contact the police?

When you make a report about suspicious activity or behaviour specially trained officers and police staff will take the details and pass these on for further checks. The information you provide will be kept secure and your identity will be protected. Your call is not recorded and you do not need to give your name. Don't be concerned about wasting police time

For more support or information you can contact the following:

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

Educate Against Hate <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

Let's talk about it – <https://www.ltai.info/>

UK Safer Internet Centre - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Your own local authority who coordinate PREVENT

PREVENT duty guidance -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799 Revised Prevent Duty Guidance England Wales V2-Interactive.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf)