



Radicalisation and Extremism Policy

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Section 1

The Counter--Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal responsibility on staff working with children and young people, to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and requires that they challenge extremist ideas. This duty came into force on 1st July 2015.

Section 2

Definitions

Radicalisation: the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism which lead to terrorism.

Extremism: active or vocal opposition to fundamental British values including but not confined to:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Section 3

Policies

The Prevent Duty should be enshrined within all relevant policies, as each are reviewed. The policies should include: Safeguarding; Equalities; Information technology; E-safety
It is important to be aware that, whilst there is a lot of media coverage regarding Islamic extremism, there are other organisations, including extreme right wing groups, who can damage society and present a threat to the community. Staff should at all times ensure that their approach to the threat of radicalisation is balanced, calm and proportionate.

Section 4

Training

The Home Office Prevent training is mandatory and all staff must undertake this training. It should also be on the programme for staff induction.
Further training will be identified and refreshed regularly to ensure that new developments are captured and shared with all staff.

Section 5

Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The single point of contact will normally be the Safeguarding Lead. Therefore the SPOC is Deidre Bowen (CEO).

If there any concerns a member of staff should inform the SPOC.

Section 6

Useful resources

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/pr-event-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

<http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk>

<http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk>

The DfE Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Group have a confidential telephone helpline 0207 3407 6244.

Section 7

What to watch out for

It is important to remember that the vast majority of children and young people, of whatever background, will not get involved in extremist action and in many cases suspicious behaviour may be a result of other problems, e.g. mental health issues, relationship, drug or alcohol problems, or just the rigours of the teenage years.

It is important not to jump to conclusions (not least because accusations of radicalisation could push vulnerable young people into the hands of radicals).

Signs to watch for include:

- Discomfort about 'fitting in'
- Appearing distanced from their own culture or heritage
- Isolation
- Low self esteem or feelings of failure
- Lacking in empathy/poor social interaction
- Disassociation with an old group of friends and arrival of a group of new friends
- Significant change in appearance and/or behaviour
- Hostile or inappropriate questions about faith and identity
- Sudden interest in religion
- Unhappiness following a move from one country to another
- Rejection of civic or community life
- Overly developed sense of grievance triggered by perceptions of racism or discrimination
- Involvement with criminal groups and/or imprisonment
- Failure to understand the actions and motivations of others.
- Accessing of violent or extremist websites or possessing violent or extremist literature
- Contact with known extremists
- Justifying the use of violence to solve society's ills
- Joining an extremist organisation

Section 8

Channel Panel

Channel is a programme which provides support for those who are vulnerable and may be being drawn towards terrorism. Schools may refer individuals to the Channel panel; however, as the programme is voluntary, the student may decline.

The link below has more information:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf

Local Safeguarding Boards are responsible for co-ordinating what is being done by all the local agencies.

Section 9

Raising a concern

What to do if you have a concern about a child/young person:

- Concerns should be treated like any other safeguarding concern and Epic Partners safeguarding processes should be used.
- Always record your concerns in writing using the relevant paperwork. Make notes as quickly as you can after concerns have arisen, providing a complete record of key information and of evidence for risk. This record may be used as evidence at a later date.
- Any copies of notes should be stored in line with Data Protection legislation. Records of all interventions, actions and referrals should be saved within the relevant case file.
- Decide on what action needs to be taken including if appropriate a referral to Children's Social Care (CSC).
- Make the appropriate referral and contact your Line Manager ASAP to let them know of the situation and forward them your completed record of concerns and actions agreed.

Emergency action

- There may be circumstances that warrant a Epic Partners staff member taking emergency action to safeguard a child. If a staff member believes that a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm and they are unable to contact their Safeguarding Lead in school; their Line Manager and Epic's Safeguarding Lead and Deputy, emergency action must be taken to ensure that the child is safe. This will mean contacting CSC or, if out of hours the CSC Emergency Duty Team.
- If you feel that a crime is going to be committed then you should contact the police on telephone number 101 or if immediate on telephone number 999.
- Any such action must be recorded and the Safeguarding Lead for the school, your Epic Line Manager, Safeguarding and Deputy Safeguarding Lead must be informed as soon as possible and an Internal Safeguarding Alert form completed and sent immediately.

