



PREVENT Policy

The Named professional in our school is: Christine Branscombe

Staff and Governors must:

- Read and understand the guidance, which will be discussed in team and governing body meetings.
- Act as required (see sections highlighted and underlined)

Scope of This Guidance

The guidance provides advice on how to manage and respond to concerns of children and their relatives identified as being vulnerable to and affected by the radicalisation of others.

Related National Guidance

- 'Prevent and Safeguarding Guidance: Supporting Individuals Vulnerable to Violent Extremism', which has been issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).
- Channel: Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism: A guide for local partnerships (October 2012)
- Prevent Duty Guidance

Introduction

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups;

There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence 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 very short time frame;

"Violent Extremism" is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as:

The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Foment, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Foment other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts;
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

National Guidance and Strategies

Prevent is one of the four main strands of the government's counter terrorist strategy, CONTEST. Prevent has five main objectives, objective 3 of which is "*Supporting vulnerable individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism*". The lead responsibility for implementing the Prevent strategy has been with the police, but as the programme has developed responsibility for leading different aspects has been shared increasingly with other public services and agencies. The expectation is that within all local authority areas a Prevent multi-agency partnership board is established to plan and manage responses;



Channel: Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism: A guide for local partnerships was published by HM Government in October 2012. The Channel programme is an initiative led by the police and partners, which operates in some areas of the country, especially in areas identified as having higher levels of risk, to provide support to people at risk of being drawn into violent extremism;

The Channel Guidance identifies as good practice the importance of having:

- A clear referral process incorporating a multi-agency panel;
- An identified coordinator or location of expertise for advice, guidance and support;
- Information sharing protocols.

Understanding and Recognising Risks and Vulnerabilities of Radicalisation

Children and young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. Children and young people are vulnerable to exposure to, or involvement with, groups or individuals who advocate violence as a means to a political or ideological end. Examples of extremist causes that have used violence to achieve their ends include animal rights, the far right, internal terrorist and international terrorist organisations;

These can include through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet (see Safeguarding and the use of Communication Technologies and Social Media Procedure) This can put a child or young person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause Significant Harm;

Most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremism. Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop an understanding of the issue. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resilience and protect individuals from engaging in violent extremist activity;

It is important to be cautious in assessing these factors to avoid inappropriately labelling or stigmatising individuals because they possess a characteristic or fit a specific profile;

It is vital that all professionals who have contact with vulnerable individuals are able to recognise those vulnerabilities and help to increase safe choices;

It is necessary to remember that violent behaviour operates on many levels in the absence of protective factors and that individuals largely act within the context of their environment and experiences;

Research shows that indicators of vulnerability can include:

Identity Crisis - Distance from cultural / religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them;

Personal Crisis - Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;



Personal Circumstances - Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;

Unmet Aspirations - Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;

Criminality - Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement / reintegration; previous involvement with criminal groups.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all people experiencing the above are at risk of exploitation for the purposes of violent extremism;

The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. Given this, it is important that awareness, sensitivity and expertise are developed within all contexts to recognise signs and indications of radicalisation;

The risk of radicalisation is the product of a number of factors and identifying this risk requires that staff exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. It may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified.

This can put a young person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause Significant Harm;

Potential indicators identified by the Channel Guidance include:

- Use of inappropriate language;
- Possession or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Behavioural changes;
- The expression of extremist views;
- Advocating violent actions and means;
- Association with known extremists;
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders;
- Using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.
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No research has identified a definitive list of indicators which would show that someone is vulnerable to radicalisation to violent extremism. Rather, the risk of radicalisation is the product of a number of factors and identifying this risk requires that staff exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary;

Some children may be at risk due to living with or being in direct contact with known extremists. Such children may be identified by the police or through MAPPA processes. The MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) is a national framework to assess and manage the risk posed by serious and violent offenders. The MAPPA cannot address the risks posed by all potential perpetrators of abuse, its focus is convicted violent and sexual offenders living in, or returning to the community.



Channel: Referral and Intervention Processes

In the Lancashire area, the police have established a bespoke process known as 'Channel', which has established an alternative mechanism for referring vulnerable individuals and for making responses and providing support;

Staff working with children should use the model below to assist them in identifying and responding to concerns about children living in families where relatives may be vulnerable to radicalisation or being drawn into violent extremist activity;

Early identification of concerns should result in responses being made through Universal provision (Tier 1) or through targeted interventions (Tier 2). Diagram 1 below, *Appropriate, proportionate responses and interventions* gives examples of appropriate and proportionate responses at each tier. The headings for the examples follow the four aspects of the *Learning together to be safe* Toolkit and further guidance and activities can be found in the *Learning Together to be Safe Workbook*;

In a few cases, an individual may move beyond being vulnerable to extremism to involvement or potential involvement in supporting or following extremist behaviour. Where this is identified as a potential risk, further investigation by the police will be required, prior to other assessments and interventions;

Any member of staff who identifies such concerns, for example as a result of observed behaviour or reports of conversations which may suggest that a child's relatives support terrorism and/or violent extremism, must report these concerns to the named or designated safeguarding professional in their organisation or agency, who will consider what further action is required;

The Channel Referral process outlined below (diagram 2) should be used to guide the named or designated safeguarding professional in making the referral;

Some people who are at risk of being drawn into violent extremist activity may pose a risk to others. If concern is expressed about an older sibling of a child accessing services, there must not be a conflict between the welfare needs of the older and younger child; agencies have a duty to safeguard both.

The named or designated safeguarding professional should consider whether a situation may be so serious that an emergency response is required. Staff should exercise professional judgement and common sense to identify whether an emergency situation applies; examples in relation to violent extremism are expected to be very rare but would apply when there is information that a violent act is imminent or where weapons or other materials may be in the possession of a young person, another member of their family or within the community. In this situation, a 999 call should be made.

Channel Referral Process

Some concerns which are identified may have a security dimension to them. For this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations;

The named or designated safeguarding professional, in discussion with other professionals (including the local police Prevent team) as appropriate, will need to determine the most appropriate level and type of support to offer the child and their family;



Tier 1 - Universal Responses and Support - Wherever possible the response should be appropriately and proportionately provided from within the normal range of universal provision of the children's centre working with other local agencies and partners. Responses could family support;

Tier 2 - Targeted Responses and Support - Where a higher level of targeted and multi-agency response is indicated a formal multi-agency assessment should be conducted. The Common Assessment

Framework (CAF) may be used with parents/carers' agreement. Support may come from several agencies and be co-ordinated via Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings. A formal plan should be completed and a lead person nominated;

Tier 3 - Specialist Support - Where a child is thought to be at risk of significant harm, and/or where investigations need to be carried out (even though parental consent is withheld) a referral to Social Care should be made. However, it should be recognised that concerns of this nature in relation to violent extremism are most likely to require a police investigation (as part of Pursue) in the first instance. The multi-agency assessment will involve the Police in the making of decisions about the appropriate response. All cases at this level will be reported to Social Care who would monitor all referrals and make regular reports to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the local Area Partnership Board for Prevent.

Once work begins at any of the levels detailed above, all those involved with the child and family should continue to monitor the situation, and consider modifying the response if circumstances change. If the risk is perceived to diminish, it may be appropriate to end the response. However, if the risk is perceived to increase, an escalation of the response may be required.

Where the Channel Panel response ends it may be that the child or young person still has outstanding needs being met through CAF, CIN, CPP or YOT processes. These processes should continue to be reviewed until all needs are met. Every case from the Channel Panel that has ended will be reviewed 6-12 months after exiting the process to ensure there are no new risks or intelligence that require a response. Where new risks or intelligence suggest a repeat of concerns the assessment process can be restarted at any point. Agencies where they become aware of new or repeat risks should not wait for the 6-12-month review, and must discuss the concerns immediately with their local Prevent team.

Local and National Support

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child please contact:

For a discussion with your local Prevent team officers:

Central

Sgt Maxine Monks

Tel: 01772 209830

Email: Maxine.monks@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Northern

Sgt Nicola Bignell

Tel: 01995 607820

Email: Nicola.bignell@Lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Headquarters

Insp Andrea Bradbury

Tel: 01772 412604

Email: andrea.bradbury@lancashire.pnn.police.uk