

Two Page Guide

Radicalisation and preventing extremism

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. Radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During this process, there will inevitably be opportunities to intervene in order to reduce the risk of the individual being attracted to extremist ideology and causes and safeguard him/her from the risk of radicalisation. It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Indeed, some of the factors that lead an individual to becoming radicalised are no different to those that might lead individuals towards involvement with or being vulnerable to other activity such as gangs, drugs and sexual exploitation (guide) for example.

Who does it affect?

Those involved in extremist activity come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive a young person towards becoming radicalised. It can affect impressionable young boys and men and impressionable young girls and women.

What factors might contribute?

Below are some of the factors that might contribute towards an individual becoming radicalised. These are included in the Framework. This is not an exhaustive list and the presence of any of these factors does not necessarily mean that he/she will be involved in extremist activity. However, a combination of many of these factors may increase the vulnerability to extremist activity:

- Feelings of grievance and injustice;
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging;
- A desire for excitement and adventure;
- Susceptibility to indoctrination;
- A need to dominate and control others;
- A desire for political or moral change
- Family or friends' involvement in extremism;
- Being influenced and controlled by a group;
- Over-identification with a group or ideology;
- Dehumanisation of the enemy

- Feeling under threat;
- A desire for status;
- Opportunistic involvement;
- Attitudes that justify offending;
- Harmful means to an end;
- Harmful objectives;
- Being at a transitional time of life;
- Relevant mental health issues;
- 'Them and Us' thinking;

What does the law say about radicalisation and extremism?

The [Prevent Strategy 2011](#) aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It tackles all forms of extremism including Al Qaida influenced extremism and far right extremism. From 1 July 2015, statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) requires a range of specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The specified authorities include those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable children and young people and adults.

What should practitioners do?

Notice: practitioners should make themselves aware of the factors that might drive somebody towards extremism so they are able to notice them should they present themselves. However, staff using their skill, expertise, and professional judgement is crucial in not stigmatising individuals that may display some of the vulnerability factors highlighted.

Check: if a practitioner is concerned about an individual (child or adult) who is being drawn towards extremist activity, they should check their concerns with their organisation's Prevent lead and/or safeguarding lead officer (if available) to ensure their concerns are valid and well informed.

Share: where it is recognised that an individual (child or adult) is indeed at risk of radicalisation and involvement in extremist activity, practitioners should report this to the designated safeguarding lead in their organisation, who will discuss these concerns with the police. The [Local Safeguarding Referrals Pathway Procedure](#) should be followed. Consideration of referrals to the Channel programme may be appropriate in some cases. Response should be proportionate, with the emphasis on supporting vulnerable children and young people, unless there is evidence of more active involvement in extremist activities.

Where concerns are identified in respect of potential signs of radicalisation which indicate the child or young person is vulnerable, the person raising the concerns should contact the Local Authority Prevent officer please contact Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Prevent officers on: prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk. Reporting online material which promotes extremism, such as illegal or harmful pictures or videos, can be done through the government website. Although professionals should follow the [Referral process](#), non-professionals may make a report anonymously.

Key contact:

Multi-agency safeguarding hub 01926 414144 (out of hours tel: 01926 886 922)

Local Authority Prevent Officer – Geoff Thomas: 01926 412016 or phone 01926 412338 to contact the administrator for the Community Safety Team who will be able to help you.

More information:

[Educate Against Hate](#)

[Prevent duty guidance — see all updates](#) Institutions covered by the Prevent Duty may wish to consider further [training resources available within the Prevent training catalogue](#) to

[Channel guidance Protection vulnerable people from being draw into terrorism](#)

[ADCS resources Radicalisation and Extremism](#)

[Keeping children safe in education](#)

[Working together to safeguard children](#)