



Radicalisation & Extremism: Advice for Parents & Carers



As a parent, you may be concerned about how radicalisation and extremism could affect your child, in the same way that you are concerned about other issues and risks they face as they grow up in modern day society.

Reports in the media have highlighted cases where young people have been radicalised and drawn into extreme or terrorist groups; despite the worry this causes, the reality is that the odds of this affecting you as a parent is very low, most young people never follow extreme pathways.

While it is rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, from an early age they can be exposed to extremism, terrorism or prejudiced views through a variety of influences around them. As part of our commitment to working in partnership, we've put together this leaflet to support you to discuss this topic with your child and to raise awareness of how we can all work together to keep communities safe.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is a key part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST); its aim is to reduce the risk of terrorism to the UK, so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence



CONTEST has four strands, often known as the four Ps:

- Protect** - strengthen protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare** - mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack
- Pursue** - stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent** - stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Channel is the key element of the **Prevent** part of the strategy.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity; through partnership working and early intervention, its aim is to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before crimes occur.

Local authorities, education, health sectors, social services, children's and youth services, offender management, the police and the local community will all work in partnership to:

1. Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
2. Assess the nature and extent of that risk
3. Develop the most appropriate support plan for them

What does this all mean?

Meanings associated with terrorism are given here in brief:

Terrorism is the unlawful use of violence or a threat of violence to support a belief or ideology.

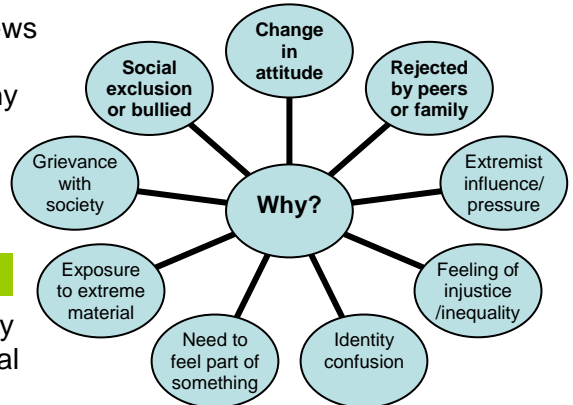
Extremism is the use of extreme behaviour to support a belief or ideology.

Not all extremism is harmful or criminal, but some people behave in an extreme way and go on to become terrorists. Any idea can be taken to an extreme, but when they are, they often lead to violence/harm to others.

Radicalisation is the process of someone developing extremist views which can lead them to join extreme or terrorist groups.

There is no 'one-way' process of radicalisation, there are often many factors or experiences which leads a person to be radicalised to participate in extremist or terrorist behaviour.

The diagram opposite gives examples of some known factors which may contribute to a person's vulnerability to be radicalised (not exhaustive)



What is the threat?

Although rare in the UK, terrorism is a threat to us all from a minority of people who encourage or glorify violence in the name of a political ideology or a religion.

Threat to the UK is largely from Al-Qaida and ISIS influenced terrorists and those people returning from international war zones such as Syria and Iraq; **however**, it must be recognised that there other extremist groups who also pose a threat to public order and the British multi-cultural way of life, these include:

Irish Dissidents
Racists

Fascists
Animal Rights Organisations

Eco-Terrorists
Far Right Extremists



What can I do?

There isn't a magic checklist for parents to use to know what could make their child become an extremist; you know your child better than anyone else, explore changes in their behaviour just as you would with other issue of concern.

This is not an easy task for parents given that children change as they grow up; changing moods, resenting authority and pushing boundaries is quite normal behaviour and will not mean they're being radicalised. The points below aim to help you discuss, reassure and support your child about radicalisation and extremism

Talk to your Child

Talking is an essential part of the process for young people to explore and understand alternative points of views; talking can help them develop informed and balanced views, values and attitudes.

Let you child know they can speak to you and you are willing to have an open and honest discussion with them about their thoughts and feelings around extremism, radicalisation and terrorism; they are naturally curious and opinionated; not allowing them to talk about topics like this can increase their curiosity and draw them to finding out more in other ways such as the internet.

Talking helps you make an assessment of your child's views and understanding giving you an opportunity to clarify facts, address any distortion in their views and identify any issues of concern; talking will also help them develop skills to express and share their experiences, views, values and attitudes with others in a healthy way, and recognise the importance of challenging extremist views.

Internet and Social Media

Monitor what your child is doing on the internet just as you would with any other risk to them online...

It is a fact... your child could visit websites or meet people online which can influence them towards extreme views, and increase the risk of them becoming radicalised.

Curiosity could lead you child to search for this material them-self or be befriended by a 'radicaliser' with the intention of influencing their beliefs to persuade them to join their cause.

This emphasizes the need to be open and to discuss this issue with your child:

Explain what the intentions are of some people online – radicalise/groom

Reassure - what to do if they're worried about something that's happened or they've seen online

Reassure - what to do if they suspect someone is trying to radicalise them

You can monitor online activity by checking the browsing history on your child's phone to see what sites they have accessed; this is usually located in the menu, if unsure, contact the phone provider for more advice.

Radicalisers use the internet to 'groom' young people

They use sites such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube

They may invite them to join discussions on less well-known sites such as Kik, Whisper, Yik Yak or Omegle as these are harder to monitor and easier to hide their identity

Positive Influences

Encourage positive ways for your child to channel their energy and focus their thinking, for example sports, clubs, hobbies etc which all offer an identity and a sense of team/community.

Being part of a positive group can also introduce your child to positive friends and role models to aspire to; this can reduce the chance of them forming factors which can lead to risk and vulnerability of radicalisation.

What can I do if I have concerns?

If you have concerns that your child may be involved in extremism or being radicalised, support and advice is available from a range of experts and services who will work together to help safeguard your child:

NSPCC – If you're concerned about a child's safety call **0808 800 5000** 24/7 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Internet Matters - Provides advice and information for parents about online radicalisation

Talk to your child's teachers: schools can help identify signs that children may be being targeted by extremists; they will also have connections with services to refer your child to for help if there are signs they are being radicalised or are at risk.

[Hampshire Police](#)

Call 101 for advice

If a child is at risk of immediate harm call 999

Email the Prevent Team

prevent.engagement@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

[Anti-Terrorist Hotline](#)

National Anti-Terrorist hotline encourages reports from the public if they notice anything which strikes you as not quite right and out of place which causes concerns.

[Reporting Online Terrorist Material](#)

Report illegal terrorist information, pictures or videos you've found on the internet. Your report will be treated anonymously.