

Factsheet: Radicalisation and Extremism

Introduction

This factsheet has been produced by tri.x as a resource for professionals working with children, young people and families and gives a brief overview on the Prevent duty, the Channel Panel and the importance of referrals.

Definition

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

‘Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’ (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011).

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. Children should be protected from messages of all violent extremism.

What is the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent duty applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies such as health, police, probation, social care, schools etc as specified authorities in England and Wales, and Scotland. The specified authorities are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable children, young people and adults and/or the national security.

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of an overall counter-terrorism strategy called CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support;
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Channel Panel

In addition, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 set out the duty on local authorities and partners to establish and cooperate with a local Channel programme of 'Channel panels' to provide support for people, children and adults, vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel forms a key part of the Prevent strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. It is essential that Channel panel members, partners to local panels and other professionals ensure that children, young people and adults are protected from harm.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- Identifying individuals at risk;
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk;
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.

The police co-ordinate activity by requesting relevant information from panel partners about a referred individual. They will use this information to make an initial assessment of the nature and extent of the vulnerability which the person has. The information will then be presented to a panel.

Referrals

Protecting children and young people from radicalisation and extremism requires careful assessment and working collaboratively across agencies. Professionals who are concerned about a child or young person should follow their safeguarding arrangements and refer to the designated safeguarding lead. Local referral procedures must always be followed and the response and level of appropriate support will be determined via a multi agency assessment meeting. If professionals are concerned about a child, young person or their family they must treat it the same as any other safeguarding concern.

Further Information

Tri.x Briefing [162 Radicalisation and Extremism – Decision Making and Safeguarding](#)

Educate Against Hate

<http://educateagainsthate.com/>

National Police Chiefs' Council

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/NPCCBusinessAreas/WeaponAttacksStaySafe.aspx>

NSPCC -Talking About Difficult Topics with Children

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Contact Us

To find out more about working with tri.x contact us on: Telephone: 024 7667 8053 or visit our website www.trixonline.co.uk.

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