

### Prevent

#### What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy and focusses on  
*'preventing people from becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism'.*  
- HM Government

Prevent has an important role to play in safeguarding and overtime has developed a strong emphasis on protecting children and adults against acts of terrorism that can occur as a result of individuals or groups of people who hold extremist views and beliefs that lead to harmful behaviours and actions.

Radicalisation is a form of harm and may involve processes such as:

- being groomed online or in person
- exploitation, including sexual exploitation
- psychological manipulation
- exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information
- the risk of physical harm of death through extremist acts

*Source: NSPCC*

Indicators a person is being radicalised may include the following:

- demonstrating intolerance of others views and beliefs
- changes in behaviours such as showing anger and resentment
- using language and views that might sound scripted and copied from others
- becoming a loner or being withdrawn from peers
- talking about disturbing behaviours and extremist materials that they have accessed on-line

#### Children

Of course, in the early years when working with families and younger children, we need to consider the bigger picture in terms of who and what is influencing children that may lead them to develop extremist or radicalised views. Young children's behaviours may change, they may become aggressive or withdrawn if they have access to violent images and content on-line that is of an extremist nature. Children may make comments to an adult about something that they have seen or heard which might also raise concerns about exposure to extremist activity at home or in their wider community.

There have been a number of reports about families, some with children as young as 2 and 3 years of age, who have travelled to places such as Syria to become part of groups who promote and engage in extremist views including terrorism. This development some years ago led to considerations for early years practitioners to always be alert to children's unexplained absences and to follow up concerns about their welfare if they suddenly leave the setting without an explanation.

### Young people and adults

When we work with and alongside of others, we should remember that concerns about radicalisation may be recognised in young people and adults too. Not all radicalised and extremist behaviours are Al Qa'ida influenced. When we look at what is depicted through the media, we should take a broader view and understanding that radicalisation also applies to 'right wing extremism'. Recent reports in fact, show an increased rise in far-right activity as a result of politic dissatisfaction and unrest.

Examples of vulnerabilities and susceptibilities for young people and adults who may have been radicalised include the following:

- Low self esteem
- Social exclusion
- Isolation
- Loss
- Unemployment / immigration
- Anger
- Sense of injustice
- Drugs and crime
- Poor mental health
- Media influences
- Religious seeking
- Propaganda
- Peer pressure

*Source: HM Government- Workshop to raise the awareness of Prevent*

### The law and its requirements

Statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places duties on certain bodies (this includes early years and schools) in the exercise of their duties to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. There are three strands that are highlighted in the duty guidance taken from the Governments Prevent Strategy 2011, they are to;

1. respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
2. prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
3. work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

*Source: Prevent duty guidance England and Wales and Revised Prevent duty guidance for Scotland.*

The **Early Years Foundation Stage - Statutory Framework** states that Providers must have regard to the 'Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales'.

Prevent is intrinsically linked to the promotion of the fundamental British values, which are *democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance*.

### Taking action

If anyone is concerned about the welfare of a child, young person or an adult due to radicalisation and extremism they must take this to their designated safeguarding lead. If their role is that of the DSL, they should take advice from their local social care policies and procedures or if they believe someone to be in immediate danger they should contact the Police.