



Camden Safeguarding  
Children Board

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# **Safeguarding children and young people from radicalisation and extremism: guidance for the children's workforce**

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## 1 Introduction

The UK is currently experiencing a high level of concern around the threat of terrorism and extremism. Associated to this threat is the risk to young people of being radicalised and drawn into violent and criminal activities by those holding extremist views. There have been media reports of young people being persuaded to leave the country in secret against the wishes of their family and children being taken to conflict zones by parents who have been radicalised.

For young people, a key part of growing up is exploring new ideas and critically questioning the world around them, and this should be encouraged in order to help them develop their understanding of the world and learn the values of tolerance and acceptance.

However, this needs to be balanced against the need to protect them from risk of harm. *Working together to safeguard children (2015)* identifies children at risk of becoming radicalised as potentially being in need or at risk of harm; children may also be put at risk where their parents hold extremist views.

This guidance has been written to help professionals to recognise when a child or young person is being exposed to extremist views and is at risk of becoming radicalised.

The guidance should be followed by all members of the children's workforce in Camden and social workers in Adult Social Care who are working with parents whom they believe are at risk of radicalisation and who may consequently pose a risk to their children.

## 2 Definitions

'Extremism' is where someone holds views that are intolerant of people who are of a different ethnicity, culture, religion, gender or sexual identity. The government definition also includes calls for the death of members of the armed forces, both in this country and abroad. Extremists may try to force their views on others and in some cases, may believe that these views can justify the use of violence in order to achieve certain aims.

Examples of extremist causes that have used violence to achieve their ends include animal rights, the far right and Islamic fundamentalists and may involve internal terrorist and international terrorist organisations.

'Radicalisation' is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Extremists will try to attract people to their cause by persuading them that their view of the world is the correct view and encouraging them to take action to change the world to fit these extremist views.

### 3 National guidance and strategies

#### The Prevent strategy

In order to tackle the threat of radicalisation and extremism and stop people from being drawn into terrorism, the Government has launched the national Prevent strategy. The aim of the strategy is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by:

- challenging the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it;
- protecting people from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

The strategy places a duty on the following agencies to work together to prevent vulnerable individuals from being radicalised and drawn into terrorism.

- local authorities, including children's and adult social care and youth offending teams
- education and child care providers, such as schools, colleges and children's centres and alternative education providers
- health services
- the Prison and Probation Service
- the Police.

#### The Channel Panel

Channel is a key part of the *Prevent* strategy that places a duty on local authorities to set up at a specialist Channel Panel in order to provide a mechanism for safeguarding children, young people and adults who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity.

Under the Channel duty, all local authorities must set up a Channel Panel in co-operation with partner agencies in order to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism;
- assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, schools, nurseries, health, police, youth offending services, youth services, prisons and probation in order to ensure early identification of individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation and to provide them with support with the aim of disrupting the radicalisation process and diverting them from illegal and/or terrorist activities:

Details of Channel Panel processes in Camden are at section 11 of this document.

#### 4. Roles and responsibilities

Agencies covered by the Prevent and Channel duties should be aware of their specific and general roles under the relevant statutory guidance, available at the following links:

**Prevent:** [Prevent duty guidance - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

**Channel:**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/425189/Channel\\_Duty\\_Guidance\\_April\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf)

Partner agencies will have differing roles within the Prevent and Channel duties:

- All agencies will be responsible for identifying vulnerable children and young people and making appropriate referrals to Family Services and Social Work (FSSW) or the Channel Panel.
- Adult social care services will be responsible for identifying vulnerable adults and making appropriate referrals to Channel Panel and where the adults have children or younger siblings under 18, notifying colleagues in the children's MASH team.
- FSSW, schools and youth services will be responsible for providing individual support and diversionary activities for young people who are identified as being at risk of radicalisation. FSSW will also provide a social work service for children and young people who are assessed as being in need or at risk of harm due to radicalisation and extremism.
- Schools and youth services can also provide support to young people who are vulnerable to radicalisation in order to build resilience at an early stage, avoiding more robust intervention later.
- Schools, nurseries and children's centres will be responsible for monitoring the safety and welfare of young children who are vulnerable or at risk because of parental radicalisation or extremism.

- The London Borough of Camden will ensure that mechanisms are in place to deal with referrals and coordinate support to vulnerable individuals through a dedicated Channel Panel.
- All agencies have a duty to share relevant information in a lawful manner in order to carry out the Prevent and Channel duties. The police and probation service will have a further role in providing specific information and intelligence on individuals in order to assess risk from this individual.

All agencies must have an understanding of the risks around radicalisation and extremism in Camden and be able to identify children, young people and adults who are vulnerable or who are at risk of becoming radicalised and take appropriate action.

To ensure this, agencies must ensure that relevant front line staff attend the Workshop to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training available from Camden's Training and Development Service or from the CSCB training programme.

The training helps workers understand the issues and their role in recognising extremism and radicalisation and knowing when to make an appropriate referral. Some agencies will also have their own relevant internal training provision that can be accessed via the agency Prevent lead.

Schools should also be aware of their specific Prevent duties:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)

## 5 Why do young people become radicalised?

Most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in extremism and many young people can be exposed to extremist views without becoming radicalised.

However, some children and young people may be more vulnerable to radicalisation due to personal circumstances such as:

- feelings of loss, bereavement, social isolation and confusion over identity
- experience of discrimination, inequality or harassment leading to a sense of grievance
- family breakdown or community tensions
- having family members or friends who are already radicalised.

Reasons why children and young people may be attracted to the extremist narrative and may become radicalised include the following:

- they are trying to make sense of world events
- they feel that their culture or religion is under threat
- it makes them feel a sense of identity or belonging or being part of something
- they are looking for adventure or excitement; young people who exhibit risk taking behaviour may be attracted to the sense of danger
- they have a personal grievance or experience of racism or discrimination and feel they want to change things.
- they are under pressure from their peers who have links with these groups.

## 6 How are young people radicalised?

The pathway to radicalisation can be described in the following steps:

- a young person who is vulnerable to radicalisation due to personal circumstances
- contact with an individual holding extremist views and who is encouraging the young person to share these views
- radicalisation based on a particular extremist ideology that appears credible to the young person
- an absence of protective factors that can positively influence the young person and stop the radicalisation process.

Exposure to extremist ideas may be through the influence of family members or friends, direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet. Young people may come into contact with adults and peers with extremist views both on-line and in everyday life and the radicaliser may be a friend or relative or may be a stranger they meet on-line.

Contact on-line may be through social media such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube but young people may be invited to join discussions on less well-known sites such as Kik, Whisper, Messenger, Yik Yak or Omegle. Extremists often use these sites because they are harder to monitor and they can hide their identity.

Extremists often manipulate and “groom” young people by using emotional triggers to engage with them, often targeting them when they are experiencing difficulties such as bereavement, emotional trauma, mental health issues or social isolation.

## 7. What are the signs to look out for?

Individually the following signs may not show evidence of radicalisation but in combination may mean the young person is subject to radicalising or extremist influences:

- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and beliefs
- changes in their friendship group or associating with people who hold extremist beliefs
- losing interest in previous activities
- changes in use of social media with increased secrecy
- owning several mobile phones or devices
- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- advocating extremist messages
- glorifying violence
- accessing extremist literature and imagery.

## 8 Assessing risk

Schools, colleges, nurseries, children's centres, health professionals, youth services, social workers, foster carers, residential workers, housing support workers and voluntary organisations may work with or care for a child or young person who is vulnerable or at risk from radicalisation.

Professionals should refer to the London Safeguarding Children Board Prevent indicators of need matrix at appendix 2 when making decisions on the level of the young person's needs, the level of risk of radicalisation based on their circumstances and the extent to which they have already been radicalised.

- Professionals will need to gather information from a wide range of sources, including the young person, their siblings and parents, peers, extended family and friends. In particular, professionals should consider whether any of the young person's family members or friends have already been radicalised.
- Where possible, professionals should gather any relevant evidence, for example correspondence with parents, internet history and visited websites, notes from meetings to discuss concerns and behaviour, and known associates.
- Some children may be at risk due to living with or being in direct contact with known extremists and may be identified by the police or through MAPPA processes.
- Where a young person has expressed extremist views, professionals should consider and make a judgement of risk based on how strongly these views are held and to what extent the young person is open to other views when challenged.



When assessing risk it is important for professionals to bear in mind that some of the signs of radicalisation could be indicative of other issues, for example bullying, substance misuse or mental illness. 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.

Professionals should be aware that not every young person who comes into contact with radicalising influences will accept the extremist narrative and become radicalised. The influence of positive, protective factors such as stable home lives and good role models within their family and peer group can counter the extremist narrative so that the young person rejects the extremist ideology.

Positive factors such as strong family ties that help build the young person's resilience to radical influences should always be taken into account when deciding on the level of risk.

**If at any time there are concerns that a young person may be about to leave the UK or a child may about to be removed from the UK by parents to travel to conflict zones, this must be reported to the police and FSSW immediately.**

## 9 Referral for services and support

Children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk from radicalisation or who may be put at risk due to their parent's radicalisation, are likely to need support from the Channel Panel. Equally, they may be in need or at risk of harm requiring a social work service in order to safeguard and promote their welfare.

For that reason, all concerns about a child or young person **who is not already known to FSSW** should be referred to Camden's MASH team in the first instance. This will enable the MASH team to assess risk and make a judgement as to whether the child or young person meets the threshold for a statutory social work service as well as support from Channel Panel.

Professionals should refer any child or young person who reaches level 2, 3 or 4 on the Prevent indicators of need matrix (see appendix 2). Referrals should be by e-CAF to the children's MASH team (see appendix 1 for contact details).

In particular, referrals should be made for:

- children and young people who are in contact with extremists and/or beginning to voice concerning extremist views
- children and young people who are radicalising their peers

- parents who hold extremist views and who may be in the process of radicalising their children
- parents who hold extremist views and who may be planning to take their children to conflict zones.

If professionals are unsure about making a referral, they can seek advice on a “no names” basis from their police schools officer (if they have one), Camden’s Police Prevent Engagement Officer or the Prevent co-ordinator prior to referral. Contact details can be found in appendix 1.

Social workers who have concerns about a child they work with should email the Prevent co-ordinator directly to discuss the case. The Prevent co-ordinator may then request the MASH team to carry out checks in order to assess risk.

The children’s MASH will also consider any referrals for the Channel Panel from the Adult Social Care MASH team where there are concerns about the radicalisation of an adult who has children.

Social workers in Camden’s adult MASH team should notify colleagues in the children’s MASH team where they are referring an adult to the Channel Panel who has children or younger siblings under 18 living in the same household. In these cases, the MASH manager and the Prevent co-ordinator will consider the level of risk to the child.

## 10 Action on referrals

All referrals will be discussed by the MASH manager and the Prevent co-ordinator, and where appropriate, the Prevent Engagement Officer where this is thought necessary to inform decision making.

The discussion will consider the following evidence in each case:

- Engagement; to what extent has the individual engaged with extremist groups or identifies with extremist ideologies.
- Intent; to what extent would the individual consider causing harm to others as a result of their views.
- Capability; to what extent is the individual capable of carrying out acts that could harm others.

Following the discussion, the following decisions will be made:

- The MASH manager will consider all the needs of the child and where it appears that the child meets the threshold for an early help service or statutory social work service from FSSW, the manager will follow MASH procedures and refer the child on for an appropriate service. This decision will be based on Camden's eligibility and threshold criteria for children's services.
- The Prevent co-ordinator will carry out a screening assessment to decide whether or not the case is appropriate for Channel support and will follow procedures for the Panel.

Generally, cases will only be referred to Channel Panel if they are at level 3 or 4 of the Prevent indicators of need matrix and it is thought a police assessment is required. If the case will not be accepted for Channel Panel, the Prevent co-ordinator will be able to advise professionals on other services and interventions to support the young person and build resilience.

Occasionally, agencies may seek information from the MASH about an individual or family who are not known to FSSW but has been referred to Channel Panel because of concerns. This may be as a result of media reports, police intelligence or information from the professional network. These requests will be passed to the Prevent co-ordinator as part of the Channel information gathering process.

## 11 Channel Panel procedures

### 11.1 Information for the panel

If a case proceeds to the Panel, the co-ordinator will request relevant information from Channel Panel partner agencies about the individual and their family.

It is an expectation that consent to sharing information is obtained from the individual about the information to be shared and this should be recorded in the agency's case records. The exception to this is where there are child protection concerns or information needs to be shared for the purpose of preventing crime or disorder.

Information should be provided within 7 working days to ensure it is available for the next scheduled panel meeting. If agencies are unsure about what information should be disclosed this can be discussed with the Prevent co-ordinator or the Police Prevent Engagement Officer. Social workers should provide copies of assessments, plans and reviews.

## **11.2 The panel meeting**

The panel meeting is attended by representatives of each of the Channel Panel partner agencies and the referrer who will be invited to discuss concerns with panel members and contribute their views on the appropriate support for the individual.

Professionals who work closely with a young person or family, for example a learning mentor, may also be invited to attend if they are likely to be involved in implementing the support plan. Where a child or young person is known to FSSW, their allocated social worker will be expected to attend.

## **11.3 Support plans**

The panel will agree a support plan to be put in place for the individual and will request a vulnerability assessment to be completed on the individual, normally by the police. Where the subject is a child or young person known to FSSW, the allocated social worker may be asked to carry out the assessment jointly with the police.

Following this assessment, it may be necessary to agree further actions or change the support plan and this will be done in consultation with the panel chair and other panel members.

Plans will include support to children and parents and may include services such as:

- mentoring
- family support
- youth services
- help from community and faith organisations
- mental health support
- employment and housing support.

As part of the plan specific agencies may be asked to progress actions identified by the panel to support the individual and to report on progress to the panel chair. Plans vary in their duration but all closed cases are reviewed at 6 months and 12 months to see if there are any further risks and if any further action necessary.

Where a child or young person will receive a child in need or child protection service from FSSW and will also be subject to Channel Panel procedures, the FSSW social care processes will lead and the Channel Panel support plan will be incorporated into the child's main social care plan. These plans should be integrated and complimentary.

## 12 Working with young people and parents

Engagement with the Channel Panel is voluntary, but research shows that the best outcomes are achieved when young people and families agree to work with the Panel and engage well with professionals.

It is important that individuals understand why they are being referred to the Panel. Prior to referral, the referring worker should talk with them about the reasons for the referral, what concerns professionals have for the individual and how it is hoped the Panel will be able to support them.

It is essential that professionals are honest and open with individuals about concerns and how important it is for them to engage with the Panel to address issues.

## 13 Consent and information sharing

The framework for information sharing for the purposes of Prevent and the Channel Panel is the same as for all work with children and young people. Consent should be obtained prior to referral and information sharing unless there is a lawful reason for not doing so.

In high risk situations, for example where children or young people are imminently travelling to a conflict zone or where there is evidence of an immediate risk of harm to the public through violence, consent does not have to be obtained. If professionals are unsure about obtaining consent, advice can be sought from the MASH social worker or the Prevent co-ordinator on a “no names” basis.

When obtaining consent, individuals should be given an explanation as to what information will be shared, with whom and for what purpose so that they are able to make an informed decision. It is recommended that consent to information sharing is recorded.

- Young people aged 16 and over can give consent to share information.
- Children and young people under 16 may give consent to share information if it is thought they are competent to make this decision, they have an understanding of the issues and what the consequences of not sharing information will be.
- If a child or young person is not considered competent to give consent, their parents or someone with parental responsibility should give consent.

Where consent to information sharing cannot be obtained, information may still be shared if:

- a child is at risk of significant harm
- it is in the public interest to share, for example if others are at risk of harm
- in order to prevent crime and disorder.

Agencies should be aware that referrals due to radicalisation and extremism can be potentially sensitive for families; it is therefore crucial that the fact that information about referrals are known only to staff members directly involved in making referrals, attending panel or implementing any support plan.

Professionals should try to gain the consent of individuals to a referral being made to the MASH, although they should be informed that a referral can still be made to the Chanel Panel without consent. Evidence of consent to the referral must be recorded on the CAF referral. Professionals should also seek consent from the individual to the sharing of information between agencies in support of the Channel Panel referral.

## Appendix 1

### Useful websites

The following websites offer information and advice:

- For advice about tackling radicalisation within the family go to Families Against Stress and Trauma at <https://www.familiesmatter.org.uk>
- To report suspected online terrorist content please follow this <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>
- Report extremist content to social media providers. Find out more at <http://www.seeitreportit.org/>
- <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/news/online-radicalisation-and-extremism>
- Department for Education: [Educate Against Hate](#)

### Contact details

Police Prevent Engagement Officer (Mark Fowler, [Mark.P.Fowler@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Mark.P.Fowler@met.pnn.police.uk) or call 0208 733 6014)

Camden's Prevent co-ordinator (Rema Patel, [rema.patel@camden.gov.uk](mailto:rema.patel@camden.gov.uk) or call 020 7974 1475)

Children's MASH team: 020 7974 3317

Adults MASH team: 020 7974 4000

## Appendix 2 Indicators of Need Matrix [Tiers 1 - 4]

### Development of the baby, child or young person

This includes the child's health, family and social relationships, including primary attachment, and emotional and behavioural development. Some of the indicators will depend on the child's age. These are guidelines to support practitioners in their decision-making. This is not intended to be a 'tick box' exercise and practitioners should use their professional judgement.

<b>Tier 1</b> Children with no additional needs whose health and developmental needs can be met by universal services.	<b>Tier 2</b> Children with additional needs that can be met through the provision of 'early help' - a referral to children's social care is NOT required.	<b>Tier 3</b> Children with complex multiple needs who need statutory and specialist services. A referral to children's social care is required.	<b>Tier 4</b> Children in acute need. Require immediate referral to children's social care and/or the police.
<b>The child's behaviour</b>			
The child engages in age appropriate activities and displays age appropriate behaviours and self-control.	The child is at risk of becoming involved in negative behaviour/ activities. For example, the child is expressing strongly held and intolerant views towards people who do not share his/her religious or political views.	The child is becoming involved in negative behaviour/ activities. For example, the child is refusing to co-operate with activities at school that challenge their religious or political views. The child is aggressive and intimidating to peers and/or adults who do not share his/her religious or political views.	The child expresses strongly held beliefs that people should be killed because they have a different view. The child is initiating verbal and sometimes physical conflict with people who do not share his/her religious or political views.
	The child is expressing verbal support for extreme views some of which may be in contradiction to British law for example, the child has from time to time espoused racist,	The child has connections to individuals or groups known to have extreme views.	The child has strong links with individuals or groups who are known to have extreme views and/or are known to have links to violent extremism. The child is thought to be involved in the activities of these groups.



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	sexist, homophobic or other prejudiced views and links these with a religion or ideology.		
The child is able to communicate with others, engages in positive social interactions and demonstrates positive behaviour in a wide variety of social situations. Child demonstrates respect for others.	The child expresses intolerant views towards peers and this leads to their being socially isolated.	The child often interacts negatively or has limited interaction with those they perceive as holding different views from themselves. They demonstrate significant lack of respect for others, for example, becoming aggressive with those that do not share their intolerant or extreme views.	Positive interaction with others is severely limited. The child has isolated themselves from peers and/or family because of their extreme and intolerant views. They glorify acts of terrorism and/or believe in conspiracy theories and perceive mainstream society as hostile to themselves. They are frequently aggressive and intimidating towards others who do not share their views or have a lifestyle they approve of.
The child engages in age appropriate use of internet, including social media.	The child is at risk of becoming involved in negative internet use that will expose them to extremist ideology. They have unsupervised access to the internet and have disclosed to adults or peers that they intend to research such ideologies. They express casual support for extremist views.	The child is engaged in negative and harmful behaviours associated with internet and social media use. The child is known to have viewed extremist websites and has said s/he shares some of those views but is open about this and can discuss the pros and cons or different viewpoints.	There are significant concerns that the child is being groomed for involvement in extremist activities. The child is known to have viewed extremist websites and is actively concealing internet and social media activities. They either refuse to discuss their views or make clear their support for extremist views.
	The child expresses sympathy for ideologies closely linked to violent extremism but is open to other views or loses interest quickly.	The child expresses beliefs that extreme violence should be used against people who disrespect their beliefs and values.	The child supports people travelling to conflict zones for extremist/ violent purposes or with intent to join terrorist groups The child expresses a generalised non-specific intent to go themselves.

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<p>The child does not run away from home.</p>	<p>The child has run away from home on one or two occasions or not returned at the normal time. For example, there is concern that they might have been staying with friends or relatives who have extreme views.</p>	<p>The child persistently runs away and/or goes missing. For example, there is strong concern that they are running away in order to spend time with friends or relatives with extreme views and that they being influenced by them</p>	<p>The child persistently runs away and/or goes missing and does not recognise that he/she is putting him/herself at risk. For example, s/he perceives the people with whom s/he is associating as teaching her/him the correct way to live and those who don't hold these views as deluded and/or as a threat.</p>
<p><b>Education and employment</b></p>			
<p>The child has an appropriate education and opportunities for social interaction with peers.</p>	<p>There is concern that the education the child is receiving does not teach them about different cultures, faiths and ideas or, if it does, is derogatory and dismissive of different faiths, cultures and ideas.</p>	<p>The child is being educated to hold intolerant, extremist views. They are not using public services, such as schools or youth clubs, and are only mixing with other children and adults who hold similar intolerant, extremist views.</p>	<p>The child is being educated by adults who are members of or have links to prescribed organisations – see link below for list of terrorist groups or organisations banned under UK law  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prescribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prescribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2</a></p>