

Safeguarding Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism Policy

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism. This school believes that this exploitation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Definitions

Violent Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as:

"The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views, which:

- *Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs*
- *Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;*
- *Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts;*
- *Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK."*

There are a number of offences that can be considered when dealing with violent extremism. They include offences arising through spoken words, creation of tapes and videos of speeches, internet entries, banners and written notes and publications.

We recognise the government position that Violent Extremism inspired by ideologies which advocate a distorted version of Islam is currently considered by the security services to be the main threat to the UK. However, this policy also seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism.

Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies have provided the framework for this document:

- The Children Act 1989; as revised by the Children Act 2004;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013);
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, Department of Health 2000;
- The revised national CONTEST (Counter-Terrorism) Strategy 2011;

- Recognising and responding to radicalisation. Considerations for policy and practice through the eyes of street level workers. (Recora Institute)

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

There is a statutory duty for staff to share information where there are concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult. All information sharing must be proportionate and relevant to the circumstances presented.

Identification

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism may come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Many factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop an understanding of the issue. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resilience and protect individuals from engaging in violent extremist activity and promote them in school.

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.

Indicators of vulnerability may include:

- Identity Crisis - Distance from cultural / religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them;
- Personal Crisis - Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- Personal Circumstances - Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet Aspirations - Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Criminality - Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration; previous involvement with criminal groups.

This list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of exploitation for the purposes of violent extremism.

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.

Referral

As with other safeguarding issues, where a staff member has any concerns that a person or their family may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This may be followed up with a referral to Children's Social Care and/or undertaking a CAF, to better understand the issue and gather additional information.

If, at any stage, it is felt that the individual poses an immediate danger to themselves or any other person, the police should be called immediately.

Appendix 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the DSP

The DSP is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, parents and Governors are aware of this document and its contents
- Acting as the first point of contact for discussions relating to individuals who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable children and young people or adults and sharing it as appropriate.

This document is reviewed and agreed annually by staff and the Governing Body, as part of the Safeguarding Policy.

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