



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS PREVENT?

SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE, TO STOP THEM FROM BEING DRAWN INTO TERRORISM.

PREVENT is about safeguarding and supporting children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism. It deals with all kinds of terrorism or groups that encourage violence to influence governments, intimidate the public and advance their cause. The process by which people are groomed or influenced into supporting extremist views is called radicalisation. The internet is a powerful tool that radicalisers use to influence or recruit vulnerable individuals. They make extensive use of different online platforms, spreading hate, extremist ideology and propaganda. Just like other forms of grooming, radicalisers may pretend to be a person's friend to build their trust before they exploit them. Sometimes, an individual's motivation for being drawn towards an interest in terrorist ideologies, actions or massacre is unclear, or may switch over time. It is all our responsibility is to offer interventions and support to all individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism, irrespective of whether the risk is driven by a true belief in an ideology or whether it is driven by other vulnerabilities and complex needs.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support extreme ideologies or beliefs that may lead to harm. This can include:

- Promoting violence or hatred towards others
- Rejecting fundamental values such as respect, tolerance, and the rule of law
- Being influenced by individuals or online content that encourages extreme views

It is important to understand that **anyone can be vulnerable**, regardless of age, background, or beliefs.



What is Extremism?

Extremism is defined as: *“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).

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.

It is important we all safeguard children, young people and families from extremism. There have been attempts to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to develop extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Children should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including those linked to Islamist ideologies, or Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideologies, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

**STOP
EXTREMISM**

Spot the Signs

While changes in behaviour are normal, some signs may indicate a need for support:



- Sudden changes in views, language, or behaviour
- Becoming withdrawn or secretive, especially online
- Says inappropriate things, including calls for violence or is abusive towards people who are different
- Loss of interest in usual activities or friendships
- Expressing support for harmful or extremist ideas
- Becomes fixated on extremist ideas and is not listening to other points of view
- Has friends involved in extremism, including on-line friends
- Has symbols associated with extreme groups on tattoos or badges, or on flags or books at home

These signs do not automatically mean a young person is at risk—but they may indicate they need guidance and support.

How Can You Help at Home?

- 1) **Talk openly** about current events and beliefs
- 2) Encourage **critical thinking** and questioning of online content
- 3) Know what your child is accessing online
- 4) Promote values of **respect, inclusion, and diversity**
- 5) Make sure your child feels heard and supported



Simple conversations can make a big difference.

What should I do if I have concerns about radicalisation or extremism?

If you are concerned about radicalisation and extremism you can find more information at [Prevent - Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#). In an emergency where immediate action is needed to protect a child, young person or adult, the police should be contacted on 999.

The following organisations are able to provide additional advice and guidance in relation to safeguarding individuals vulnerable to radicalisation and children who may be at risk through living with or being in direct contact with known extremists:

Police Anti-Terrorist Hotline number: [0800 789 321](tel:0800789321)
Staffordshire Police: [101](tel:101) (or for emergencies: call 999)
[Report terrorism online](#) (to report online material)

For more information about what is happening in Staffordshire to prevent extremism or terrorism, see [Prevent – stopping people being drawn into terrorism | Staffordshire County Council](#) on the Staffordshire County Council website.