

Introduction

As a parent you may be worried about how radicalisation and extremism might affect your child. This leaflet aims to help you understand more about radicalisation and extremism and how you can deal with these issues.

What is Prevent?

The aim of Prevent is to support individuals who are at risk of radicalisation by offering them help and early interventions. Prevent is a statutory duty designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Prevent duty covers all types of terrorism and extremism leading to violence including the extreme right wing, Daesh or Al-Qaida inspired groups and other causes.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is a process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism, leading to violence. A person may be influenced by radicalisers who they have met online or in person. Some young people going through adolescence may be targeted by radicalisers, as they exploit complex issues around identity, grievances and a sense of belonging.

Should I be worried?

Despite the high levels of media attention given to terrorism, the chances of them affecting you as a parent or carer are very low. It is important to remember that most people will never support terrorism and that the number of young people that become involved in terrorism from the UK is very small. However, terrorists and extremists may try to influence children and young people by radicalising them into supporting their cause.

Our approach follows national and local safeguarding processes to ensure that individuals are protected, and our communities remain safe.

Our aim

We want to keep children and young people safe from radicalisation. In order to do this, we will work with you to ensure that the right support is offered to your child to protect them from such harm.

The support may include; developing critical thinking approaches to challenge harmful ideologies, providing mentoring sessions or facilitating positive activities through local community groups.

What to look out for

There is no individual stereotype of what makes someone vulnerable to radicalisation, as every case is unique.

It is everyone's responsibility to prevent the radicalisation of young people. Parents, teachers, friends and family all have a part to play in making sure that extremist ideas are challenged.

You know your child better than anyone else and are best placed to notice concerning changes in their behaviour. If you are worried about these changes, you may wish to speak to someone, like front-line staff, who may be able to help you.

However, it is useful to remember that:

- Children and young people want to push the boundaries. They are searching for an identity in a confusing world.
- Many extremists are increasingly reaching out to children and young people through the internet and social media apps, such as Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and online gaming platforms.

I have concerns. What should I do, who should I contact?

- Talk to your child and explore the issues you have concerns about.
- Encourage your child to learn and understand alternative points of view.

If you are worried about your child's behaviour, or social and emotional wellbeing and believe that they are being drawn into radicalisation, please seek help and advice from someone who has a professional awareness of these issues and can do something to help your child and the family.

You can seek further advice and information by contacting:

Ealing's Prevent Team

0208 825 9849

Social Care Team

0208 825 8000

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Outside of these hours you can call our Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on

0208 825 5000

If you believe there is an immediate threat to your child or others please call the Police on 999.