

## How can parents and carers support children and young people to stay safe?

- Know where your child is, who they are with and check this for yourself
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Keep lines of communication open, listen to your child and talk to them about their interests
- Encourage them to take up positive activities with local groups that you can trust
- Talk to your child about what they see on the TV or the internet and explain that what they see or read may not be the whole picture
- Allow and encourage debate and questioning on local and world events and help them see different points of view
- Encourage your child to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds
- Help your child to understand the dangers of becoming involved in situations about which they may not have the full information
- Teach them that expressing strong views and trying to change things for the better is fine but they should not take violent action against others or support those that do
- Be aware of your child's on-line activity and update your own knowledge
- Know what social media and messaging sites your child uses
- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may be pretending to be someone else or telling them things that are not true.
- Explain that anyone who tells them to keep secrets from their family or teachers is likely to be trying to do them harm or put them in danger.

## Where to get help?

If you are worried that your child may be in contact with people who are trying to radicalise them, you can call the following people for information and advice:

**If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger telephone 999**

### **Safeguarding Referral Team**

01782 235100 (Office hours)  
Emergency Duty Team 01782 234234  
(outside office hours 1700 to 0830)

Staffordshire Police Prevent Team

T: 01785 232054

E: [prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

**NSPCC Helpline - [0800 800 5000](tel:08008005000)**

**School** – If you have a concern please talk to your child's class teacher or another person in the school that you trust as soon as possible. They will be able to help and can access support for you and your child

**Stoke-on-Trent City Council** - for information on early help, advice and support services for individuals and families, 01782 232200

This leaflet aims to help parents and carers recognise when their child may be at risk from radicalisation and where to get help if they are worried.



[www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk)

## **Keeping Children and Young People Safe From Radicalisation and Extremism**

### **Advice for parents and carers**



SCB Leaflet No. 10

# 2017 March

## What is Extremism and Radicalisation?

'**Extremism**' is where someone holds views that are intolerant of people who are of a different belief, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender or sexual identity. The government also includes calls for the death of members of the armed forces, both in this country and abroad as part of this definition. Britain is a democratic country where the principles of tolerance and mutual respect for people of all faiths and beliefs, including non-belief, are upheld by the law. Those who hold extremist views and advocate violence go against these fundamental principles.

**Radicalisation** is a process by which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of extremism leading to terrorism. Typically, the radicalisation process includes exposure of an individual to extremist viewpoints that may eventually influence the person to carry out an act of terrorism. This could take weeks, months or even years. It is possible to intervene during this process and stop someone becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism.

**Radicalising Materials** includes literature or videos that are used by radicalisers to encourage or reinforce individuals to adopt a violent ideology. Some of this material may explicitly encourage violence. Other materials may take no definite position on violence but make claims to which violence is subsequently presented as the only solution.

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 young people from radicalisation and extremism.

## Why might a child or young person be drawn towards extremist ideologies?

- They are trying to make sense of world events
- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- They may be driven by the desire for 'adventure' and excitement
- It makes them feel a sense of identity or belonging or being part of something
- They feel that their culture or religion is under threat
- They may be drawn to a group or individual who can offer identity, social network and support

Please be aware that this list is not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of violent extremism.

## How are children and young people radicalised?

Young people may come into contact with adults and peers with extremist views both online and in everyday life. The person may be a friend or relative or may be a stranger they meet online.

Contact online 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 young people by using emotional triggers to engage with them, and may target them when they are experiencing difficulties such as bereavement, emotional trauma, mental health issues or social isolation.

## What are the signs to look out for?

Individually these 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 additional mobile phones or devices
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Advocating extremist messages
- Glorifying violence
- Accessing extremist literature and imagery.