

# Radicalisation and preventing extremism



## What is it?

**Children's Services have a responsibility to identify young people at risk of radicalisation and to prevent them becoming susceptible to extremism and taking action as a result of extreme views. Radicalisation towards right wing causes is just as likely as Islamic radicalisation.**

Those children who are identified as being vulnerable to exploitation by violent extremists due to, for example:

- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders
- Disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends
- Having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy
- Accessing violent extremist websites
- Searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- A desire to enhance self esteem

## What does the law say about it?

A child is defined in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. Safeguarding and promoting

the welfare of children in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully

## What do we have in Bolton?

Wherever a professional has concerns that a child may be becoming susceptible to extremist influences they should discuss the issue with their organisational lead and consider a referral to the Channel project (a police led multi-agency project that specialises in this area of work). It is acknowledged that many of the indicators for violent extremism are also indicators for other criminal or anti-social behaviours and should therefore be discussed fully before any referral is made to the Channel project.

## Key contact...

Head of Service Child Protection  
Tel: 01204 337430

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