

CENTRAL COLLEGE NOTTINGHAM

Advice for Parents, Carers and Homestay Hosts.

**Keeping young people safe
from Radicalisation and Extremism.**

www.centralnottingham.ac.uk

Advice for parents, carers and Homestay hosts.



KEEPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE FROM RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM.

Terrorism, extremism and radicalisation are themes that have featured heavily in recent Government policy.

Furthermore, there have been many reports in the media recently of young people being targeted by adults who hold extreme views that often advocate violence.

In some extreme cases, young people have been persuaded to leave the country in secret against the wishes of their family, putting themselves in extreme danger as a result.

This information booklet aims to help you as parents/ carers/ Homestay Hosts to recognise when a young person may be at risk of being radicalised and where to get help if you are worried.

This booklet has been produced by the:

Central College Nottingham Safeguarding Team

For further information contact:

Email: safeguarding@centralnottingham.ac.uk

Telephone: **01159146414** and ask for a member of the
Safeguarding Team

WHAT IS RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM?

Radicalisation is defined as: *‘the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist activity.’*

There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame.

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 for those with 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’.*

We live in a democratic country where the principles of tolerance and mutual respect for people of all faiths and beliefs are upheld by the rule of law. Those who hold extremist views and advocate violence go against these fundamental principles.

TERRORIST OR EXTREMIST CONTENT MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Comments calling for racial or religious violence
- Videos of violence with messages of ‘glorification’ or praise for the attackers
- Chat forums with postings calling for people to commit acts of terrorism or violent extremism
- Messages intended to stir up hatred against any religious or ethnic group

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON BE DRAWN TOWARDS EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES?

- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- They may feel their culture or religion is under threat.
- They may be driven by the desire for adventure and excitement.
- They may be driven by a need to raise their self-esteem and promote their 'street credibility'.
- They may be drawn to a group or individual who can offer identity, social network and support.
- They may have a personal grievance or experience of racism or discrimination resulting in a need to make a difference.
- They may be influenced by world events/distorted media coverage.
- They may be under pressure from peers who have links to extremist groups.
- They may have a learning difficulty or mental health issue that is being exploited by others who hold extreme views.

RECOGNISING EXTREMISM – SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships.
- Secretive behaviour – online and with regard to peers.
- Losing interest in previous friends and activities.
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes.
- Glorifying violence.
- Far Right Symbolic Tattoos: **18=AH**= Adolf Hitler, **88=HH**= Heil Hitler



- Advocating messages similar to extremist individuals/organisations such as: Britain First, English Defence League, Muslims against Crusades, Islamic State of Iraq and alSham (ISIS).
- Showing a mistrust of mainstream media reports and belief in conspiracy theories.
- Demonstrating an intolerance/hatred of different faiths, cultures and/or sexual orientations.

More critical risk factors could include:-

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders to others: This is often scripted.
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Possessing extremist literature – including literature with regard to weaponry/bombs.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.
- Fascination/possession of knives, weaponry, bombs, toxic substances.

HOW MIGHT THIS HAPPEN?

ONLINE

The internet provides entertainment, connectivity and interaction. Young people spend a lot of time on social media and messaging sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Vine or WhatsApp. These can be useful education and communication tools, however, extremists have become adept at exploiting these online communication platforms to reach out to young people to communicate extremist messages.

PEER INTERACTION

Young people at risk may display extrovert behaviour, start getting into trouble at school or on the streets and mixing with other children who behave badly. However, this is not always the case. Sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. As part of some forms of radicalisation parents may feel their child's behaviour seems to be improving: children may become quieter and more serious about their studies; they may dress more modestly and mix with a group of people who seem to be better behaved than previous friends.

TV AND MEDIA

Media coverage concerning local and world affairs is extremely powerful and can often provide a very simple and distorted versions of events which are in reality very complex. Therefore, young people may not understand local/world events fully or appreciate the dangers involved in the views of some extreme groups.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAY SAFE

- Know where and who your child/ young person is with and check this for yourself.
- Be aware of your child's/young person's friends and their families.
- Keep lines of communication open, listen and talk to your child/ young person about their interests.
- Encourage your child/ young person to take up positive activities with local groups that you can trust.
- Talk about what your child/ young person watches 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/ young person to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds.
- Help your child/ young person 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/ young person's online activity and update your own knowledge.
- Know what social media and messaging sites your child/ young person uses.
- Remind your child/ young person 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.

GETTING HELP AND PREVENTION

Central College Nottingham

If you have a concern, please **ask for a member of the Safeguarding Team on: 01159146414 or email: safeguarding@centralnottingham.ac.uk**
They will be able to help and can access support for you and your child/young person.

Further sources of support

Anyone with concerns for the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person can contact their local Social Care Team. Please visit your local authority's website for contact details. Alternatively, call the safeguarding team at Central College Nottingham who will be able to put you in touch with the correct department.

Imminent threat of harm to others contact

Call: **Police 999/101** or for non-urgent enquires call the **Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321**

Useful websites

- Report terrorism online via: **www.gov.uk/report-terrorism**
- **www.educateagainsthate.com** – provides further information with regard to understanding radicalisation and extremism.
- **www.internetmatters.org** has lots of information, advice and resources which can be used to help children stay safe online
- **www.ceop.gov.uk** CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account, protecting children from harm online and offline
- **www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0** Information and support for safe use of the internet.

For more advice on cyber safety visit:

www.childline.org.uk

www.cybersmile.org