Radicalisation and preventing extremism

A One-Minute Guide

WHAT IS RADICALISATION?

Radicalisation is a safeguarding issue and refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and other forms of extremism that can lead to terrorism. Whilst no single factor is usually enough to radicalise someone into terrorism, several factors together can create conditions under which terrorism can occur.

There is no single profile of what might drive someone to become radicalised, or what an extremist or terrorist looks like. Individuals involved in extremist activity can come from a range of background and experiences, although there are some common factors which can make someone more vulnerable to becoming radicalised.

Radicalisation is a process that is different for everyone. Radicalisation can occur as a gradual process over a long period, or within a very short timeframe.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TOWARDS RADICALISATION

Some of the factors that can lead to an individual becoming radicalised are the same as those which make vulnerable individuals susceptible to activities such as drug misuse, sexual exploitation, gangs and alcohol abuse. It is unlikely (but not impossible) that a single factor alone will lead a person to become radicalised. Such factors are:

- bullying
- isolation
- mental health difficulties
- bereavement
- drug/alcohol misuse
- lack of self-esteem
- the need for belonging
- looking for a cause or reward
- a sense of injustice or grievance
- a desire for power, respect or and/or status
- access to extremist material online
- being easily influenced/lack of clear sense of self

WHAT BEHAVIOURS MIGHT BE DISPLAYED BY SOMEONE WHO IS BEING RADICALISED?

A change or changes in behaviour can indicate that someone may be being radicalised, or may be at risk of radicalisation, although it is important to remember there may be other underlying reasons for behaviour changes and that context and proportionality are very important. Concerning behaviour changes might be:

- Changes in mood and/or patterns in behaviour, language/use of words
- Possession of violent extremist literature (including online/digital content)
- Use of language or speech that promotes hate
- The expression of extremist views or sympathy to extremist causes
- Seeking to engage or recruit others to extremist ideologies, extreme groups, literature/content, online social media groups or marches, or spending time with those who seek to engage or recruit
- Preaching/imposing views on others; outbursts of anger
- Isolating themselves; secretive behaviour; fixating on a new subject or person

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A CONCERN?

It's important to remember that the examples given in this guide are non-exhaustive, and the context of an individual is as important as the context in which the behaviours stem from and/or occur. The examples given should not be seen as an exhaustive list, but rather, an indication of worrying behaviours that could make someone vulnerable.

If you have a concern that someone is being radicalised or may be at risk of it, you should speak to a member of Safeguarding staff. SIRM College Safeguarding staff are:

***Ilford** (Maheen Javed M.Javed@sirm.ac.uk ***Leicester** (Kholah Dar k.dar@sirm.ac.uk) ***Principal** (Charlotte Fletcher-Morgan c.fletcher-morgan@sirm.ac.uk) the PREVENT Single Point of Contact)

NOTICE - CHECK - SHARE

If you **notice** a change in an individual that could make them vulnerable to being radicalised or exploited, **consult** one of the above-named staff and **follow** the College Safeguarding Policy. You can also consult the College Prevent Policy for information.

ABOUT PREVENT

The PREVENT programme is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In line with our statutory duty, SIRM College works together with partnership agencies to stop people becoming involved in or supporting terrorist activity. Under the PREVENT Duty all public sector agencies have a responsibility to ensure their staff and volunteers have a good understanding of Prevent and their responsibilities towards individuals, groups or families they are working with.

For further information on the PREVENT Duty and for information on Prevent training and resources available contact the PREVENT SPOC, who is the Principal.

Channel Programme

Channel is a voluntary programme designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing multi-agency partnerships for vulnerable individuals. Channel is chaired by the local authority and works with multiagency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual, decide whether an intervention is necessary and work with partners to develop an appropriate support package for each referral.

For further information on Channel and how SIRM College engages with it, please see the College PREVENT Policy.

Further information on PREVENT

For further information you can read the national guidance:
The Prevent Strategy
The Prevent Duty
Channel Programme

You can also read the UK Government PREVENT duty guidance in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015