Safeguarding Update Issue 2

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Extremism and Radicalisation

www.childline.org.uk

ChildLine 0800 1111

Southampton Safeguarding Partnership

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

If you have concerns about a child or wish to receive some form of support, please come and talk to a member of the safeguarding team.

Extremism and Radicalisation

This Safeguarding Update aims to give parents/carers information on how to identify and respond if they feel that their children may be affected by extremism and radicalisation.



What is extremism? 'Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calling for death of members of the armed forces.' Keeping Children Safe in Education.

What is radicalisation? 'Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.' Keeping Children Safe in Education.

What is terrorism? 'Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.' Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Spotting the Signs

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur though many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet).

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.

Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include:



- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Unwillingness to discuss their views
- Increased levels of anger
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Having money or new things like clothes or mobile phones that they cannot or will not explain

Talking about Terrorism with your Child

Children are exposed to news in many different ways and what they can see may worry them in lots of ways. Here are some tips that can help you have conversations with your child:

- Listen carefully to their fears and worries
- Offer reassurance and comfort
- Avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- Help them find advice and support to distressing events and feelings
- Children can always contact CHILDLINE free and confidentially on 0800 1111 or online at childline.org.uk

The NSPCC website offers further resources to help parents/carers, including videos of parents talking to their children about terrorism: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/

It is important to know that whilst a person can be radicalised by others, there are some people (including children and young people) who radicalise themselves by seeking out information to support their viewpoint on the internet.

The Prevent Duty specifies schools are required to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Resources can be found at: https://educateagainsthate.com/