

**Keeping our  
community safe  
against radicalisation  
and extremism**

# Keeping our community safe against radicalisation and extremism – **introduction**

It is crucial to the safety of our community to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn in to terrorism, also to build community resilience to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology. It is about all forms of terrorism – far right as well as Islamist extremism.

Prevent acts to safeguard people who are vulnerable to radicalisation in a similar way safeguarding processes are designed to protect people from gang activity, physical/sexual abuse and bullying. It is aimed at supporting people before they become drawn into any criminal activity.

The North Somerset Prevent Board are working together to ensure that adequate information and support is available to our community and to ensure that anyone who is concerned about someone being drawn into terrorism are given appropriate advice and support.

**This leaflet sets out information to help keep our community safe and what you should do if you have any concerns.**

This leaflet has been produced by  
the North Somerset Prevent Board  
For further information  
email: [jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01934 426 880

To translate this booklet into other formats or  
languages call 01934 426 880

# 1. Why might someone be drawn towards extremist ideologies?

- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- 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 cred'.
- They may be drawn to a group or individual who can offer identity, a social network or support.
- They may be influenced by world events and a sense of grievance resulting in a need to make a difference.

## 2. How could this happen?

It is important to remember that no one factor is likely to cause someone to be drawn into terrorism or violent extremism, however the areas listed below could play a part.

### Online

The internet provides a great opportunity for entertainment, connectivity and interaction. People may spend a lot of time on the internet while studying, working or for entertainment, they may use social media and messaging sites such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, Vine or Whatsapp. These are useful tools, but we need to be aware there are powerful programmes and networks that use these media to reach out to people and can communicate extremist messages.

## Interaction with radicalisers

There are no typical characteristics of people who may be more at risk than others. However a sudden change in someone's behaviour could be a potential indicator. Sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. If you are concerned about someone enquire about their wellbeing, it is important to keep open channels of communication and this includes listening to their views and concerns.

## TV and media

The media provide a view on world affairs. However, this is often a very simple version of events which, in reality, are very complex. People may not understand the situation fully or appreciate the dangers involved in the views of some groups. They may see things in simple terms and not have the whole picture.

## **3. Recognising extremism**

signs may include:

- out of character changes in behaviour and relationships
- secretive behaviour
- losing interest in friends and activities
- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence
- possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as 'Muslims Against Crusades' or other non-proscribed extremist groups such as the English Defence League.

## 4. Concerns about your child

The parent/child relationship is the foundation to keeping children safe and supporting their social development and educational attainment.

Parenting can be a challenging task. Maintaining a positive relationship can sometimes be difficult as children grow and develop and seek an identity that may be different from their own family.

Children and young people have a natural curiosity which as parents we want to encourage. However, as our children grow up we have to take different steps to ensure their safety.

## 5. How can parents 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 online 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.**

If you have any concerns that your child may be being influenced by others get help – talk to someone you can trust, this could be your child's teacher, college tutor, family members, faith leaders or outside help from one of the organisations on page 8.

## 6. What will happen if I report my concerns?

When you report concerns the information you share will be considered by the Police Prevent Team. If appropriate, the person will be referred on for support through the North Somerset Channel process.

### What is Channel?

Channel is a safeguarding project which aims to prevent children and adults from being drawn into violent extremism or becoming involved in terrorist related activity. It works with the consent of the vulnerable person or if appropriate their parents.

It uses a multi-agency approach between the local authority, statutory partners, for example schools, health and social workers, and the police to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned.

Channel work with vulnerable people and assist them to better understand the true peaceful and tolerant nature of Islam, or to challenge the ignorance of extreme right wing views. This process aims to address concerns before a crime has been committed.

**For more information about the North Somerset Channel process call Jo Mercer, Safer Communities Manager on 01934 426 880 or email [jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk)**

## 7. Useful telephone numbers

	Dial
In an Emergency situation	999
Police Prevent Team	01179 455 539 or 101 and ask for the Prevent Team or email <a href="mailto:channelsw@avonandsomerset.police.uk">channelsw@avonandsomerset.police.uk</a>
Crimestoppers (Anonymous reporting)	0800 555 111

### Concerns about a child travelling abroad

If you feel there is a risk of a child leaving the country, consider what safeguards you could take to avert travel. Anyone with parental responsibility for a child under 18 can contact the police or HM Passport Office to surrender their son or daughter's passport. Passport Adviceline: 0300 222 0000

Email: [newport@hmpo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:newport@hmpo.gsi.gov.uk)

Web: [www.gov.uk/hm-passport-office](http://www.gov.uk/hm-passport-office)

The **Active Change Foundation (ACF)** provide a confidential helpline to prevent British nationals from travelling to conflict zones. ACF Confidential helpline telephone number is **020 8539 2770**



## **8. Further sources of support and information**

### **Children**

If you have a concern please talk to your child's class teacher, college tutor 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.

**Alternatively, anyone with concerns for the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person can contact:**

### **Children's Social Care Services**

(24 hours a day) on 01275 888 808

**North Somerset Family Information Service** provides up-to-date information on a range of services for children, young people and families. Visit our website: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsod](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsod)

Or call **01934 426 300** or email [fis@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:fis@n-somerset.gov.uk)

### **Adults**

The North Somerset Council website provides a wide range of information about services that are available for adults:

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/socialcare/adults/](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/socialcare/adults/)

If you are concerned that an adult is at risk of abuse, (someone aged 18 or over who may be unable to take care, speak out, or protect themselves against abuse or exploitation). Please contact the North Somerset Council Safeguarding Team:

### **Care Connect**

Tel: **01275 888 801**

Email: [care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk)

If you need support outside office hours contact our emergency duty team on 01454 615 165

If you would like to know more about the work of prevent you can access a Home Office online training package: [www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk)

## **9. Useful websites**

### **[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)**

Avon and Somerset Police

### **[www.crimestoppers.co.uk](http://www.crimestoppers.co.uk)**

Report crimes anonymously

### **[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)**

Lots of information, advice and resources which can be used to help children stay safe online

### **[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)**

Working 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.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)**

Childline is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19 to report any issues that concern them.

### **[www.ltai.info](http://www.ltai.info)**

Let's Talk About It has been created to provide a greater understanding of the support Prevent can offer and to challenge division and negativity in our communities through positive and effective attitude changes. By highlighting the issues and initiating discussions around the potential threats we face as a community, we can create greater understanding and wider awareness.

### **[www.preventtragedies.co.uk](http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk)**

Information for people concerned about the increasing number of young people who are putting themselves at risk by travelling to Syria and other conflict zones and to help the numbers of families that have been torn apart by fear when their loved ones travel

### **[www.educateagainsthate.co.uk](http://www.educateagainsthate.co.uk)**

This website gives parents, teachers and school leaders practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.

## **10. Organisation Information**





This leaflet has been produced by the Prevent Board in North Somerset with thanks to London Borough Tower Hamlets Parental Engagement Team.



