

Bath & North East Somerset Council 'One Minute Guide' to Radicalisation

Definition

The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. Radicalisation can lead to development of extreme views including justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to being steered into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves people vulnerable to future radicalisation. It is not generally a single event, instead happening over a period of time during which a young person may be groomed and exploited into a new way of looking at the world. Radicalisation is a safeguarding issue

Risk indicators

Radicalisation may be suggested by young people exhibiting a number of the following changes in behaviour (but remember there may be other underlying reasons):

- General changes of mood, patterns of behaviour, or secretive behaviour;
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships;
- Use of inappropriate language;
- Possession of violent extremist literature;
- The expression of extremist views or sympathy to their causes;
- Advocating violent actions and means;
- Association with known extremists;
- Seeking to recruit others to extremist ideology;
- Talking as if from a scripted speech;
- Losing interest in friends and activities;
- Glorifying violence;
- Possessing illegal or extremist literature.

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Principles

- All children groomed, radicalised and drawn into extremist behaviour should be seen as victims of child abuse and the first priority is their immediate welfare, health and safety.
- Keeping children and young people safe from the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks
- A contextualised approach to safeguarding may be appropriate if the risk is primarily beyond the young person's immediate family/household
- All agencies will actively support the 'reintegration' of young people who have previously been radicalised to reduce the risk of re-occurrence and promote their achievement of positive outcomes;
- Most individuals, even those who hold extreme radical views, do not become involved in violent extremism and holding extreme views in itself is not illegal.

What should practitioners do?

If there is an imminent risk to the young person and/or of them committing an offence, Police should be contacted on 999.

If a young person may be at risk of exploitation and radicalisation, an [Early Help Assessment](#) can be used to identify a young person's needs and strengths and those of their family in relation to the risk. A Team around the Child meeting can strengthen the plan put in place to support the young person

If there are specific concerns but no immediate risk of harm, the practitioner or their safeguarding lead will discuss these concerns with the Local Authority's Prevent lead the Inclusive Communities Manager. B&NES Prevent Lead: Samantha Jones – 01225 396364. She may advise completion of a [Prevent Referral Form](#).

The Prevent lead will share information with the Police Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit and decide if a referral to a Channel Panel is required, in accordance with national Prevent Guidance. The multi-agency children's Channel Panel is chaired by the Director of Children, Young People and Families who will determine a proportionate response and level of support necessary.

If there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the young person, call the Duty and Assessment Team on 01225 396312 or 396313. The Request for Service Form can be found at: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection>

All safeguarding policies and procedures are available at:
<https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>