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A Guide To Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During this process, there will inevitably be opportunities to intervene in order to reduce the risk of the individual being attracted to extremist ideology and causes and safeguard him/her from the risk of radicalisation. It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Indeed, some of the factors that lead an individual to becoming radicalised are no different to those that might lead individuals towards involvement with or being vulnerable to other activity such as gangs, drugs and sexual exploitation.

Who does it affect?

Those involved in extremist activity come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive a young person towards becoming radicalised. It can affect impressionable young boys and men and also impressionable young girls and women.

What factors might contribute towards radicalisation?

Below are some of the factors that might contribute towards an individual becoming radicalised. These are included in the [Channel Vulnerability Assessment Framework](#). This is not an exhaustive list and the presence of any of these factors does not necessarily mean that he/she will be involved in extremist activity. However, a combination of many of these factors may increase the vulnerability to extremist activity:

- Feelings of grievance and injustice
- Feeling under threat
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging
- A desire for status
- A desire for excitement and adventure
- Opportunistic involvement
- Susceptibility to indoctrination
- Attitudes that justify offending
- A need to dominate and control others
- Harmful means to an end
- A desire for political or moral change
- Harmful objectives
- Family or friends' involvement in extremism
- Being at a transitional time of life
- Being influenced and controlled by a group
- Relevant mental health issues
- Over-identification with a group or ideology
- 'Them and Us' thinking
- Dehumanisation of the enemy

What does the law say about radicalisation and extremism?

The [Prevent Strategy 2011](#) aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It tackles all forms of extremism including Al Qaida influenced extremism and far right extremism. From 1 July 2015, statutory guidance issued under [section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) requires a range of specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The specified authorities include those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable children and young people and adults.

What should practitioners do?

Notice - practitioners should make themselves aware of the factors that might drive somebody towards extremism so they are able to notice them should they present themselves. However, staff using their skill, expertise, and professional judgement is crucial in not stigmatising individuals that may display some of the vulnerability factors highlighted.

Check – if a practitioner is concerned about an individual (child or adult) who is being drawn towards extremist activity, they should check their concerns with their organisation's Prevent lead and/or safeguarding lead officer (if available) to ensure their concerns are valid and well informed.

Share – where it is recognised that an individual (child or adult) is indeed at risk of radicalisation and involvement in extremist activity, a referral should be made to the MASH and the police using a MARF (Multi Agency Referral Form) sending this to both emails – MASH@walsall.gcsx.gov.uk and prevent_inbox@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk . If as part of this identification a child or young person is put at risk (either through their own direct involvement or that of someone else e.g. parent / carer), practitioners should share their concerns immediately with the MASH to discuss further.

Channel is a multi-agency partnership that develops a proportionate package of support and interventions to draw a vulnerable individual away from becoming radicalised and involved in extremist activity.

Key contacts and further information

MASH tel: 0300 555 2866 (or out of hours tel: 0300 555 2922)

National guidance:

- [The Prevent Strategy](#)
- [The Prevent Duty](#)
- [Channel Programme](#)

You can read further on the Walsall Safeguarding Child Board website [Hyperlink to WCSB](#)
You can also read the duty guidance in the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#)



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A Guide To Parenting

What is the parenting Service

We bring together lots of different kinds of free support to help you raise a happy family, whether you need a hand to help calm a two year-old tiger or a chat about a tearaway teenager you can find a programme that is right for you.

Who does it affect?

We offer free support for parents and careers of children and young people living in the Walsall area.

What support is on offer:

- **Understanding Your Childs Behaviour Group a 10 week group running for 2 hours a week:** Understanding your child' is for mums and dads and grandparents or anyone around your child. The group looks at children's development needs, sleep, feelings and most importantly how to have fun!
- **Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities Group 13 week group running for 2.5 hours a week:** The SFSC group will help you to think about how your culture and family background have shaped your parenting style. It also helps with skills for building relationships and changing behaviour.
- **Cygnets Group for parents of children and young people with Autism running for 6 weeks.** Only for parents and careers of children and young people with Autism. The group looks at things like behaviour management, communication and sensory issues.
- **Triple P Group and Triple P Teen Group a 8 week group running including telephone sessions:** The Triple P groups help parents increase good behaviour and managing difficult behaviour such as emotional and risky behaviour of teenagers, and high risk times of younger children like – shopping.
- **Online Courses:** we offer a range of free online courses for everyone supporting the arrival of new babies, we also offer online parenting programmes to parents unable to attend groups.

We also offer groups for parents that need extra help and support because of things like domestic violence, mental health, drug or alcohol issues:

- Mellow Mums – 14 week full day a week group for mums and their children under 5years
- Mellow Dads – 14 week full day a week group for dads and their children under 5 years

Parents referred to Mellow by their Social Worker or Early Help workers will be supported with transport, childcare, breakfast and lunch for the Mellow day. Mellow helps parents improve attachments with their children, and parents learn new skills and gain confidence. Sessions on Mellow help parents explore their own childhood experiences and current life challenges.

Key contacts and further information

To chat about free programmes running in your area contact Early Help Hub & Family Information Services on 0300 555 2866

To refer parents to specialist Mellow email walsallwayofparenting@walsall.gov.uk for criteria and referral form, or speak directly to the Early Help Parenting Practitioner - Joanne Daniels 07944657427.

To discuss training offers to become a parenting practitioners or wider agency support with parenting or toxic trio responses contact Early Help Parenting and Toxic Trio Lead Georgina Atkins 01922 650719, 07908242162.



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A Guide To Absent, Missing and Away From Placement Without Authorisation

What do 'Absent', 'Missing' and 'away from placement without authorisation' mean?

A 'Missing' child is a child under the age of 18 whose:

- whereabouts cannot be established and
- where the circumstances are out of character, or
- the context suggests the child may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another.

And whose family or carers have reported them as missing to the police.

An 'Absent' child is:

- a child who is not at a place where they are expected or required to be and there are no concerns regarding their welfare.

For children looked after there is another category which is 'away from placement without authorisation'. This relates to:

Children looked after by the local authority, whose whereabouts is known, but who is not at their placement or place they are expected to be (absent) but for who the carer has concerns or the incident has been notified to the local authority or the police.

Which children and young people are we talking about?

Children and young people absent themselves from living with their parents at home and from care (looked after children).

Some of the children and young people living at home with their parents are currently known to the Children's Social Work Service and others are not.

Link to Child Sexual Exploitation

Practitioners should be aware that when a young person repeatedly goes missing, this may be an indicator that they are at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). In addition, children and young people who go missing are also more vulnerable to exploitation. Professionals must be aware of the indicators of child sexual exploitation (these indicators are provided in the 60 Second Guide to CSE or for more information, see Walsall Safeguarding Children's Board <http://wlsccb.org.uk>)

If a child is missing or absent what should be done?

Parents and carers should take all reasonable and practical steps to establish the whereabouts and well-being of a child in order to identify whether the child is absent or missing.

For both absent and missing children, all details about the absence should be recorded including any steps taken to locate and return the child. Information should be shared with key people throughout the absent or missing period such as the family/carer, the Police and the social worker (or Emergency Duty Team).

If there are concerns about a child being absent or away from placement, the child should be reported as missing to the police; the police should be provided with details of steps taken to locate and return the child; child's details including photo and physical description / clothes worn; where and when last seen; and if there are any other risk factors such as CSE or learning disability.

Where a child is absent or away from placement without authorisation the situation should be reviewed at least every eight hours. Regardless of the level of risk, all absences should be upgraded to missing if they continue for 72 hours.

Where the child is absent or away from placement without authorisation and there are immediate risks identified, although the location is known, contact should be made with the police to discuss.

Safe and Well checks and Return Interviews

On return, every child who has been reported as missing, should have a Safe and Well check carried out by the Police. Within 72 hours of a child's return a more in depth Return Interview is undertaken by Street Teams, an independent local charity. Where a child is either looked after, subject to a child protection or a child in need plan, social workers should consider the need for missing vulnerability and risk management. Where the child is looked after and placed out of borough, the social worker must make arrangements to complete the return interview.

Where a child who has been missing does not currently have social work involvement, the police, family or other practitioners should consider whether a referral to the MASH is required.

Who are the key contacts and more information?

MASH: 0300 555 2866 or out of hours Emergency Duty Team 0300 555 2922

Police emergencies: 999

Further information is available at:

Walsall Safeguarding Children Board: <http://wlscb.org.uk>

Department for Education Statutory Guidance on Children Missing from Care is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care_3_.pdf



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A Guide To Domestic Violence

What is domestic violence?

Domestic Violence (also known as domestic abuse) refers to any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. Most reported incidents relate to women and girls but this is not always the case.

Domestic Violence can include, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. Victims are **not** confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Responding to domestic violence incidents

Children's Services become involved in cases of domestic violence where the household includes a pregnant woman and or children are present or members of the household and they are at risk of significant harm.

In some cases we are already working with the child and their family and get to know directly. At other times, we get to know about the incident following police attendance at any incident of domestic violence in Walsall where a pregnant woman or a child or children are present.

Police officers are now co-located in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This enables West Midlands Police and Children's Services to work together and share information on cases of domestic violence leading to more integrated and effective partnership working in this area.

How do partners work together?

When the Police are called to a household because of a reported domestic violence incident, the attending officer completes a DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour Based Violence) risk assessment. When a pregnant woman or a child (or children) are present, Children's Social Work Service is notified and the DASH risk assessment is shared.

All notifications are screened daily in the MASH and safeguarding discussions take place between police colleagues and social work managers as required throughout the day. Discussions focus on whether a child/children or unborn child is at risk of significant harm or there is the likelihood of significant harm. They consider the detail of the presenting incident, the risk assessment, information held and shared by other MASH colleagues along with historical information.

If there is a likelihood of significant harm the case will progress to social work teams for further assessment. All referrals are dealt with in line with the Walsall Safeguarding Procedures available from the Walsall Safeguarding Children's Board

Website: <http://wlsqb.org.uk>

Where there is high risk to the adult, consideration may be given to a referral to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

What should practitioners do?

Practitioners should be mindful of the possibility of domestic violence when working with families. They should contact MASH if they are aware of an incident of domestic violence where a pregnant woman or a child or children are present or members of the household and they are at risk of harm. In emergencies or where a crime is suspected, the police should be contacted.

Specialist advocacy, advice and support for victims in Walsall

The Cedar Centre provides telephone support, individual appointments and outreach support to victims of domestic abuse. This includes undertaking comprehensive risk assessments and developing individual safety and support plans with victims. The service also provides a range of courses and programmes including: Freedom, Power to Change and You and Me Mum.

Key contacts and specialist helplines

MASH: 0300 555 2866

Police emergencies: 999

Police Safeguarding Unit (non-emergency): 101

The Cedar Centre (Sandwell Women's Aid): to be confirmed

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327

Forced Marriage—Karma Nirvana: 0800 599 9247 (Mon-Fri 9.30am -5pm)

Forced Marriage Unit: 020 7008 0151

Perpetrators—Respect Helpline: 0808 802 4040

Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999



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A Guide To Child Sexual Exploitation

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse, in which a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.

The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend or girlfriend. But they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do. The abuser may physically or verbally threaten the young person, or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them, and try to isolate them from friends and family.

The risk of CSE is linked to children and young people who are missing or absent.

Who does it affect?

This type of abuse could happen to any young person from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. Some children are particularly vulnerable such as disabled children, children looked after, care leavers, migrant children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

What do we all need to do?

Child sexual exploitation affects thousands of children and young people across the UK every year. As professionals working with young people in an education, health or social care setting, we all have an important role to play in protecting children from exploitation - helping to cut them free from this horrific form of child abuse. We can do this by the following

Identification: be aware of the risk indicators and factors and consider whether a child is at risk of sexual exploitation.

Acting: if you identifies that a child may be at risk of CSE, you should contact the MASH to discuss this. If a child is at immediate risk of harm, ring the Police on 999.

Vulnerability and Risk Management: where it has been recognised that a child is at risk, has been targeted or is being exploited, services should work together to manage vulnerability and risk. This is usually coordinated by Children's Social Work Service and involves multi-agency partnership working.

Disruption: services should work in partnership to disrupt perpetrator activity. This will include sharing information between the police and services working with children and adults, the business sector and the wider community.

Risk indicators and factors to consider in identifying CSE

Education: truanting; regular non-school attendance; excluded; behaviour problems

Missing / run away: comes in late, stays out overnight without permission; persistently reported as missing from home or care: missing for short periods of time on a regular basis

Sexualised risk taking: inappropriate dress; change in physical appearance; meeting unknown adults; getting into unknown cars; social media used to meet adults; older partner (+5 years).

Rewards: unaccounted for money, expensive items such as new mobile phone or jewellery.

Contact with risky adults / environments: associating with other known sexually exploited children and / or unknown adults; extensive use of mobile phone; accessing unknown premises (homes) or known risky areas; evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites.

Coercion and control: reported limited or reduced contact with friends, family or in placement; disclosure of physical and/or sexual assault which may be later withdrawn; physical injuries; child's whereabouts is unknown and/or they are estranged from family.

Sexual health: reported STI(s); miscarriage(s); termination(s).

Substance use: level of drug and alcohol use changed or different becoming more frequent, increased, concerning and/or chronic.

Mental Health: low self-esteem; self-harming; eating disorders; attempted suicide; violent behaviour; angry outbursts; offending behaviours.

Key contacts and more information

MASH: 0300 555 2866 or out of hours
Emergency Duty Team: 0300 555 2922
Child Abuse Investigation Unit: 101 78896476
Police emergencies: 999

You can read national guidance:

[Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation](#)

Or for more information, see Walsall Safeguarding Children's Board

<http://wlsccb.org.uk>



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A Guide To Childcare for 2 Years Olds

Why use Childcare for 2 year olds

We know that attending free early learning can make a big difference, your child can make friends, play and have fun, and learn and develop.

Who does it affect?

If you have a child who is 2 or nearly 2 then you may be entitled to free childcare the term after your child turns 2.

If you are getting one of the things on the list below you may be entitled to a free place:

- Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or both and joint household income below £16,190 a year
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 Immigration and Asylum Act

If your child has a Special Educational Need:

- Child receives Disability Living Allowance
- Child has a current statement of special educational needs or an Education Health and Care plan

Looked after or adopted children are also eligible for a free place:

- If child is looked after by a local council
- Child has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

What support is on offer:

Each eligible child will be entitled to up to 570 free hours during a year, which is worth up to £2787.19. This is a free place.

You can take your FREE hours either termly (over 38 weeks) or spread the hours over the full year (up to 48 weeks), if available at your chosen provider. Free places are available at Nurseries, Pre-school playgroups, with childminders and now some schools offer free care for 2 year olds.

Key contacts and more information

For more information please contact the Early Help Families Information Service on 01922 653383, 0300 555 2866 Option 1, email walsalfis@walsall.gov.uk or complete the online eligibility checker on www.mywalsall.org/fis.

