



## **Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation**

The National Minimum Standards 2011, the procedures for AFA, and all Local Authority and Independent fostering services, must be ‘... in line with Government guidance and requirements, including the duty to refer information to statutory bodies.’ AFA must also ensure that any changes in procedures are ‘made known to Foster Carers, fostering service staff, volunteers and children.’ (NMS 22.3)

Procedures need to be regularly reviewed to ensure that emerging themes or concerns are thoroughly addressed. There continues to be extensive coverage of the risk to children and young people being drawn into violent extremism. The risk may come through known contacts, introductions by friends or family members, schools or centres of faith, and increasingly through the Internet and social media.

Some individuals and groups hold extreme political or religious ideals, which have the potential to alienate young people from accepted societal values and beliefs. Foster Carers and Placement Managers need to be aware of how children and young people in their care can be coerced into joining groups that put themselves and others at risk.

Looked after Children and young people often feel, or see themselves, as rejected by society and, although their behaviour and habits can change for several reasons, they are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Any significant change of behaviour needs to be recorded and discussed with the Placement Manager. If a young person is being drawn into extreme violence or radicalisation, changes in behaviour may include:

- Use of inappropriate language including intolerance of specific groups
- Possession of violent extremist literature
- Accessing websites relating to military training skills and techniques, weapons, or explosives
- Withdrawal from family, friends, or peers
- Promoting a violent response to specific groups or events
- Association with known extremists
- Trying to recruit others to an extremist ideology

From 1 July 2015 all those providing services to children are subject to a duty known as the Prevent duty. Government advice is available which explains what the Prevent duty means, how compliance with the duty can be demonstrated in addition to information and resources available. Local Safeguarding Boards have established referral routes, such as through Local Authorities Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) teams, which could lead to support being provided through the Channel programme. This is available to those who are identified as particularly vulnerable to radicalisation.

The Prevent Duty means that all organisations working with children and young people must ensure that staff are familiar with the issues relating to radicalisation by providing training, literature, and resources. The AFA Safeguarding Lead has completed training on the Prevent Duty and can provide advice or liaise where necessary with Local Safeguarding Boards or the Department of Education counter extremism helpline:

[counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk) or 020 7340 7264.

## Action to be taken

Any safeguarding risk or concerns relating to radicalisation, must follow established AFA safeguarding procedures with a referral being made to the AFA Safeguarding Lead.

## For further information:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (<https://www.gov.uk>):
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/729914/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)  
Working Together to Safeguard Children: a guide to inter Agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2018
  - Working Together: transitional guidance: for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, local authorities, safeguarding partners, child death review partners, and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>
- [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)
- <https://ddscp.org.uk/>
- <http://www.lcitylscb.org/>
- <http://lrsb.org.uk/>
- <https://www.norfolkscb.org/>
- <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/>
- <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb>
- <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/children-and-families/nottingham-city-safeguarding-children-board>
- <https://suffolksp.org.uk/>
- <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/>

or

- <http://www.safecic.co.uk/your-scb-acpc/55-free-downloads-and-safeguarding-links/61-safeguarding-children-board-links>  
for all other safeguarding children's boards in England.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>

## Connected Policies or Guidance

Name of Policy / Guidance	Relevant for
Record Keeping and Confidentiality Policy	All staff and carers
Safeguarding Policy	All staff and carers
Foster Carer Handbook	Carers, Placement Managers

Revised January 2021