



## **Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation**

The National Minimum Standards 2011, AFA procedures, 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 Parents, 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, school or faith groups, 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 Parents and Fostering Social Workers need to be aware of how those in their care can be coerced into groups that might put themselves and others at risk.

Those looked after can 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 Fostering Social Worker. If a young person is being drawn into extreme violence or radicalisation, changes in their 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 this 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 Authority Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) teams. 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. Training on the Prevent Duty is identified as Core Training for all approved Foster Parents.

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 which can be contacted via the following means:

Emailing [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk) or through the contact form which can be found at <https://report-extremism.education.gov.uk/> or by calling 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 Safeguarding Lead, or in their absence, a senior social work manager.

### 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>
- [Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)
- <https://ddscp.org.uk/>
- <http://www.lcitylscb.org/>
- <https://www.norfolkscb.org/>
- <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/>
- [Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/child-protection)
- <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/children-and-families/nottingham-city-safeguarding-children-board>
- <https://suffolksp.org.uk/>
- [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](http://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 Foster Parents
Safeguarding Policy	All staff and Foster Parents
Foster Parent Handbook	Foster Parents, Fostering Social Workers