



Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation

Some individuals and groups hold extreme political or religious ideals, which have the potential to alienate children and young people from accepted societal values and beliefs. The risk of being drawn into extremism such may come through known contacts, by introduction to others via friends or family members, school or faith groups, and increasingly through the Internet and social media.

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.

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. If a young person is being drawn into extreme violence or radicalisation, changes in their behaviour may include:

- The use of inappropriate language including intolerance of specific groups and/or the promotion of a violent response to such
- Possession of violent extremist literature and/or association with known extremists
- Accessing websites relating to military training skills and techniques, weapons, or explosives
- Withdrawal from family, friends, or peers
- Trying to recruit others to an extremist ideology

From 1 July 2015 all those providing services to children are subject to 'The Prevent Duty' and 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.

Agency procedures need to be regularly reviewed to ensure that emerging themes or concerns are thoroughly addressed. 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)

Government advice is available which explains what this means and how compliance with the Duty can be demonstrated, in addition to information and resources available.

Referral routes for those identified as particularly vulnerable to radicalisation, such as through Local Authority Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) teams have been established by Local Safeguarding Boards.

AFA’s Designated 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 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead, or in their absence, a member of the Management Team.

For further information please see:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: a guide to multi-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (<https://www.gov.uk>): [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)
- [Working together to safeguard children 2023: summary of changes \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- <https://ddscp.org.uk/>
- <http://www.lcitylscb.org/>
- <https://www.norfolkscb.org/>
- <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/>
- [Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Partnership - Nottingham City Council](#)
- <https://suffolksp.org.uk/>
- [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#)

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

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