



# One minute guide

## Radicalisation and preventing extremism

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### What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation is a safeguarding issue and refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and other forms of extremism leading to terrorism. Whilst no single factor is usually enough to cause someone to join a terrorist organisation, several factors together can create the conditions under which terrorism can occur. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive someone to become radicalised. Those involved in extremist activity can come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Radicalisation is a process and the process is different for everyone - it can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame.

### Factors contributing towards radicalisation

It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Some of the causes that lead to an individual becoming radicalised are no different to other factors that can lead susceptible individuals towards concerning activity such as drug misuse, child sexual exploitation, gangs and alcohol abuse. Other factors may include:

- A need for belonging;
- Bereavement;
- Looking for a cause/ reward;
- Mental health difficulties;
- Being withdrawn/ isolated;
- A sense of injustice/ grievance;
- A desire for power, respect or status;
- Bullying;
- Drug or alcohol misuse;
- Online use/ online radicalisation.

### What behaviours might be displayed by someone who is being radicalised?

Radicalisation may be identified by an individual exhibiting a change in behaviour or a number of changes in behaviours. These may include some of the following, but remember there may be other underlying reasons for behaviour changes:

- Changes in mood, patterns of behaviour or secretive behaviour.
- Possession of violent extremist literature or use of inappropriate language/ speech.
- The expression of extremist views or sympathy to their causes.
- Seeking to engage or recruit others to extremist ideologies, extreme groups, literature, online social media groups or marches.
- Preaching or imposing their views on others.
- Isolating themselves from family and friends.
- Outbursts of anger.
- Change in language or use of words.
- Fixation on a new subject or person
- Secretive online behaviour, spending excessive amounts of time online, using worrying apps or watching concerning videos. Chatting to people online who may not have the individual's best interests at heart.

The above should not be seen as an exhaustive list, rather an indication of worrying behaviours that could make someone susceptible to radicalisation.

## Online radicalisation

Everyone is using the online space much more and online radicalisation is a key concern. The online space allows extremists the opportunity to target, connect and communicate with people susceptible to radicalisation. Exposure to extremist content and groups online can lead people down a dangerous path. Online exploitation can be difficult to identify but if you do spot it, act early to enable the individual to get the support they need.

## What should a practitioner do if they have a concern?

If as a practitioner you have a concern, you should follow your organisation's safeguarding policy and remind yourself of this helpful sequence:

### NOTICE - CHECK - SHARE

If you **notice** a change in an individual that could make them vulnerable to being exploited or radicalised, follow the safeguarding procedures within your organisation. **Check** your concern with a senior member of staff or designated safeguarding lead and if there is a genuine concern about radicalisation, they should **share** a Prevent referral.

## Channel Programme

Channel is a voluntary programme designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing multi-agency partnerships for vulnerable individuals. Channel is chaired by the local authority and works with multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual, decide whether an intervention is necessary and work with partners to develop an appropriate support package for each referral.

## Further information

If you're worried about someone and want to find out more about Prevent before making a referral, visit the [ACT Early website](#) and [Get help for radicalisation concerns—gov.uk](#).

For more local information, please visit the [Leeds Prevent](#) page on the Leeds City Council website.

If you think someone in Leeds could be the victim of radicalisation and wish to make a Prevent referral, please call Leeds Prevent to obtain the form by telephoning 0113 5350810 or emailing [prevent@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@leeds.gov.uk)