Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Audience:	School and academy staff, particularly Headteachers and administrative staff Local Governance Committees
Reviewed: **Effective From:**	December 2024 (Inclusion Team) and July 2025 (SIG) December 2024
Other related policies / procedures:	Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy Equality Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy Positive Behaviour Management Policy Online Safeguarding Policy Safer Recruitment Policy The Prevent Duty for Schools and Childcare Providers (DFE) Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov
Owner:	Safeguarding Lead
Policy / procedure Model:	<mark>MAT policy: all Crofty schools use this policy</mark> Aligned: Policy to be adapted to school where indicated School policy: specific to needs of the school
Next Review:	SIG – July 2028
Publication Details:	Trust Website MS Teams: MAT School Admin Resources Policies GovernorHub

Policy Statement

Crofty Education Trust schools are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

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1.   Aims and Principles

1.1   The school Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

1.2   The objectives are that:
1.2.1   All governors, teachers, teaching assistants, non-teaching staff and visitors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are, and why we need to be vigilant in school.
1.2.2   All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
1.2.3   All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views: building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
1.2.4   All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

1.3   The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

2.   Definitions and Indicators

2.1   Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extremism or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

2.2   Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

2.3   There are a number of behaviours which may indicate that a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:
2.3.1   Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
2.3.2   Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
2.3.3   Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
2.3.4   Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
2.3.5   Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
2.3.6   Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
2.3.7   Communications with others that suggest identification with a group, cause or ideology.
2.3.8   Using insulting to/derogatory names for another group.
2.3.9   Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person, which may include:
- Physical or verbal assault
- Provocative behaviour
- Damage to property
- Derogatory name calling
- Possession of prejudice-related materials
- Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
- Inappropriate forms of address
- Refusal to cooperate

- Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
- Condoning or supporting violence towards others

3.   Procedures for referrals

3.1   It is important for staff to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that incidences of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring to any concerns through the appropriate channels (See Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals).

3.2   We believe that it is possible to intervene and protect people who are vulnerable. **Early intervention is vital,** and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

3.3   The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Channel Single Point of Contact (SPOC) will deal swiftly with a any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

3.4   The DSL or SPOC will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (See Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals).

3.5   As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, that can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact detail to do this via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

4.   Governors, Leaders and Staff

4.1   The DSL and SPOC are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that they are not available, and the Head Teacher is not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

4.2   Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

4.3   The DSL and SPOC will work in conjunction with the Pastoral Care Team and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

4.4   Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, Trust schools have updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the Positive Behaviour Policy and Equality Policy.

5.   The Role of the Curriculum

5.1   Our curriculum is 'broad and balanced' in accordance with Ofsted guidance. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

5.2   In school, we help build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting positive values – in particular, the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The formal curriculum is used to support positive messaging and counter-narratives, for example PSHE, history, citizenship and RE. This also directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance, as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

5.3   Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

6.   Online Safety

6.1   The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our schools blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

7.   Staff Training

7.1   Through appropriate training in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the processes of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on, and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities (see staff training document held by school admin team).

8.   Safer Recruitment

8.1   We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous, and we follow the statutory guidance published in Keeping Children Safe in Education. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governor and volunteers.

9.   Visitors and the use of school premises

9.1   If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor into the school, they must first complete a visitor request form. Only after written agreement from the Head Teacher can the visitor enter the school and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including DBS checks and photo identification. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

9.2   Upon arriving at the school, all visitors, including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance and be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

9.3   If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

10. Policy Review

10.1   The school Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy review.

Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals

- It is important that you put as much information into the referral form as possible so that it can be fully assessed.

- For advice/guidance about concerns you can also contact the Prevent Team:
01392 225130 or the Cornwall Channel Chair – Email: prevent@cornwall.gov.uk

- Alternatively, people can visit Counter Terrorism Policing's safeguarding website, https://actearly.co.uk or call the national policy Prevent advice line on 0800 011 3764 to discuss any concerns.

The process for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly referrals is:

- **NOTICE:** Person vulnerable Identified

- **Person in immediate danger or immediate risk to public - PHONE POLICE**

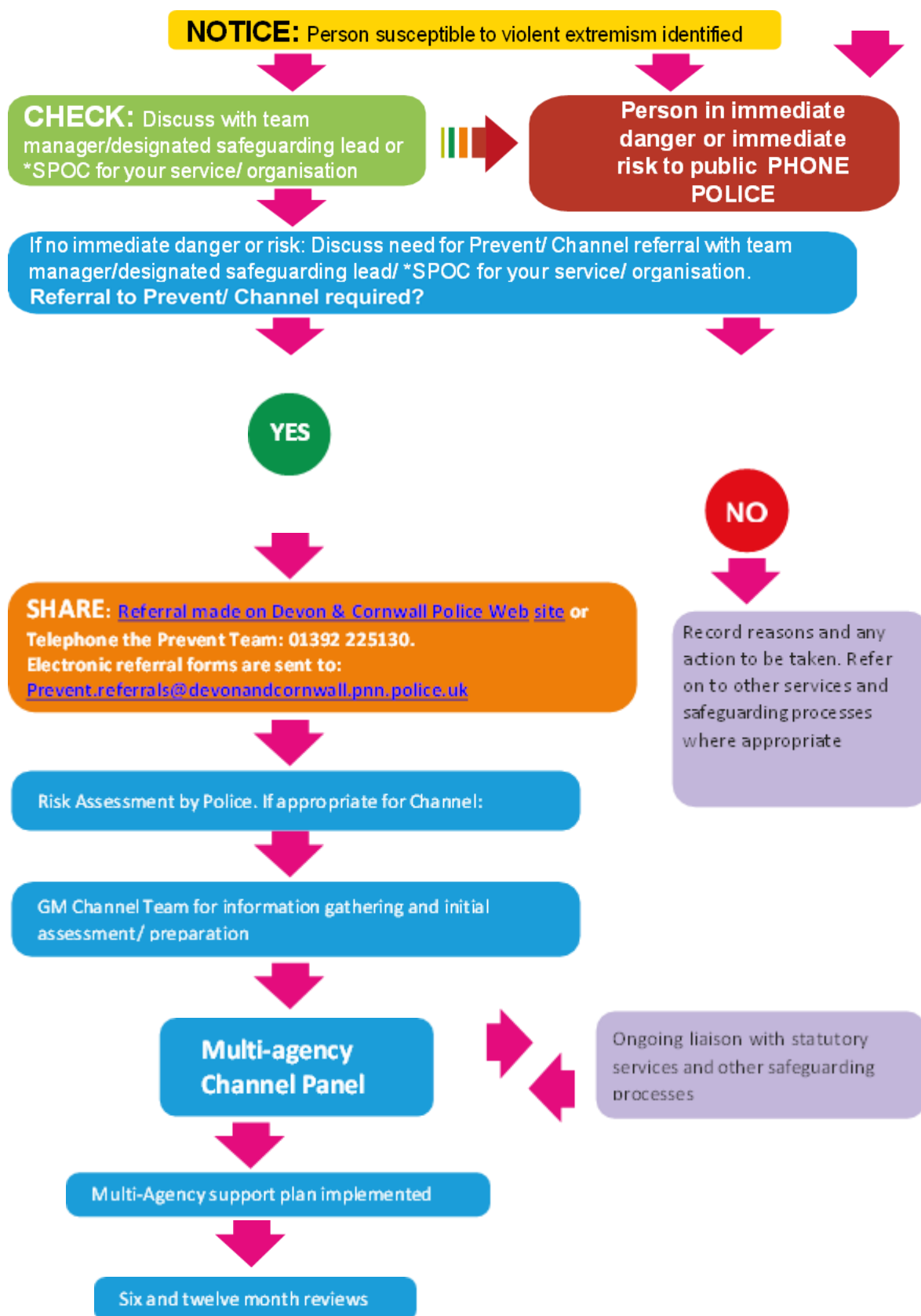- **CHECK:** If no immediate danger or risk: Discuss with team manager/designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or Channel single point of contact (SPOC) for your service or organisation.

- **SHARE:** If you decide to make a referral please call 01392 225130 to discuss your concerns prior to submission of any Prevent referral form. Completed referral forms are sent to: Prevent.referrals@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Responding to Adults and Children vulnerable to messages of Violent Extremism

NOTICE: Person susceptible to violent extremism identified

CHECK: Discuss with team manager/designated safeguarding lead or *SPOC for your service/ organisation

Person in immediate danger or immediate risk to public PHONE POLICE

If no immediate danger or risk: Discuss need for Prevent/ Channel referral with team manager/designated safeguarding lead/ *SPOC for your service/ organisation. Referral to Prevent/ Channel required?

YES

NO

SHARE: Referral made on Devon & Cornwall Police Web site or Telephone the Prevent Team: 01392 225130. Electronic referral forms are sent to: Prevent.referrals@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Record reasons and any action to be taken. Refer on to other services and safeguarding processes where appropriate

Risk Assessment by Police. If appropriate for Channel:

GM Channel Team for information gathering and initial assessment/ preparation

Multi-agency Channel Panel

Ongoing liaison with statutory services and other safeguarding processes

Multi-Agency support plan implemented

Six and twelve month reviews

Appendix 2 – Key Points to Remember

- Prevent is a safeguarding process and like all other safeguarding processes it is the responsibility of all of us and is designed to protect people from harm. Similar to protecting people from other forms of harm like drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation, modern day slavery, it protects vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists.

- Anyone can be radicalised and there's no single profile of a person that is vulnerable to exploitation by extremists. More important than any one specific sign, is the sense that something is not quite right with the person you're worried about. If you are worried tell someone. Remember to **NOTICE, CHECK, SHARE.**

- Grooming and radicalisation can happen to anyone particularly when they are at their most vulnerable or in need of support. There are lots of reasons that can leave people more open to exploitation and this applies to people of any age, social class, religion, ethnicity or educational background.

- The same kind of grooming process is used for organised crime, county lines, child sexual exploitation and extremism. If we can inform people about how predators operate, then we can build resilience and increase protection.

- Individuals that have been referred (or parents and guardians in the case of children) are contacted by supportive and specially trained staff. Channel Case Officers follow up on referrals and make appointments to meet up. Professionals are given regular training so that they are skilled and knowledgeable about safeguarding and assessing appropriate referrals.

- Consent from the individual (or parents and guardians in the case of children)) must be given before any Channel support is put in place. The process is a voluntary agreement.

- There is a wide range of professionals who can be involved in the Channel process. The people that are included will depend upon the individuals' needs. It is a needs led service that will bring the relevant people together to maximise the support that can be given. In this way any provision that is offered is done so with that one person in mind.

- The Channel programme does not criminalise people. Participation in Channel does not show up on security checks and will not create any barriers for future plans.

- The many testimonials of people that have participated in Channel demonstrate a high level of professional care, successful safeguarding and positive transformation

Key contacts and resources:

Act Early
CT Policing safeguarding website www.actearly.uk aimed at family and friends to encourage them to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.
Are you worried that someone you care about is at risk of radicalisation, but not sure what to do? #ActEarly and find out what support is available
actearly.uk

Home Office Online Prevent Training Modules:
Prevent awareness E learning - www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk
Channel Awareness E learning - www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/preventreferrals
Prevent referrals E learning - www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness

Government Prevent Duty Guidance
www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Government Channel Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance/channel-duty-guidance-protecting-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation-accessible

Banned Groups
Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations
www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations - 2

Useful resources for schools

Government advice and trusted resources for schools to safeguard students from radicalisation, build resilience to all types of extremism and promote shared values:
Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism
How to spot signs of radicalisation and get help: Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Resources and lesson plans:
Hammersmith and Fulham Prevent and Schools - resources and lesson plans.

For any further information you can contact: Steve Rowell - Prevent Lead Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
Email: steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk
Tel: 07980 895 104