



Online Exploitation
and Radicalisation

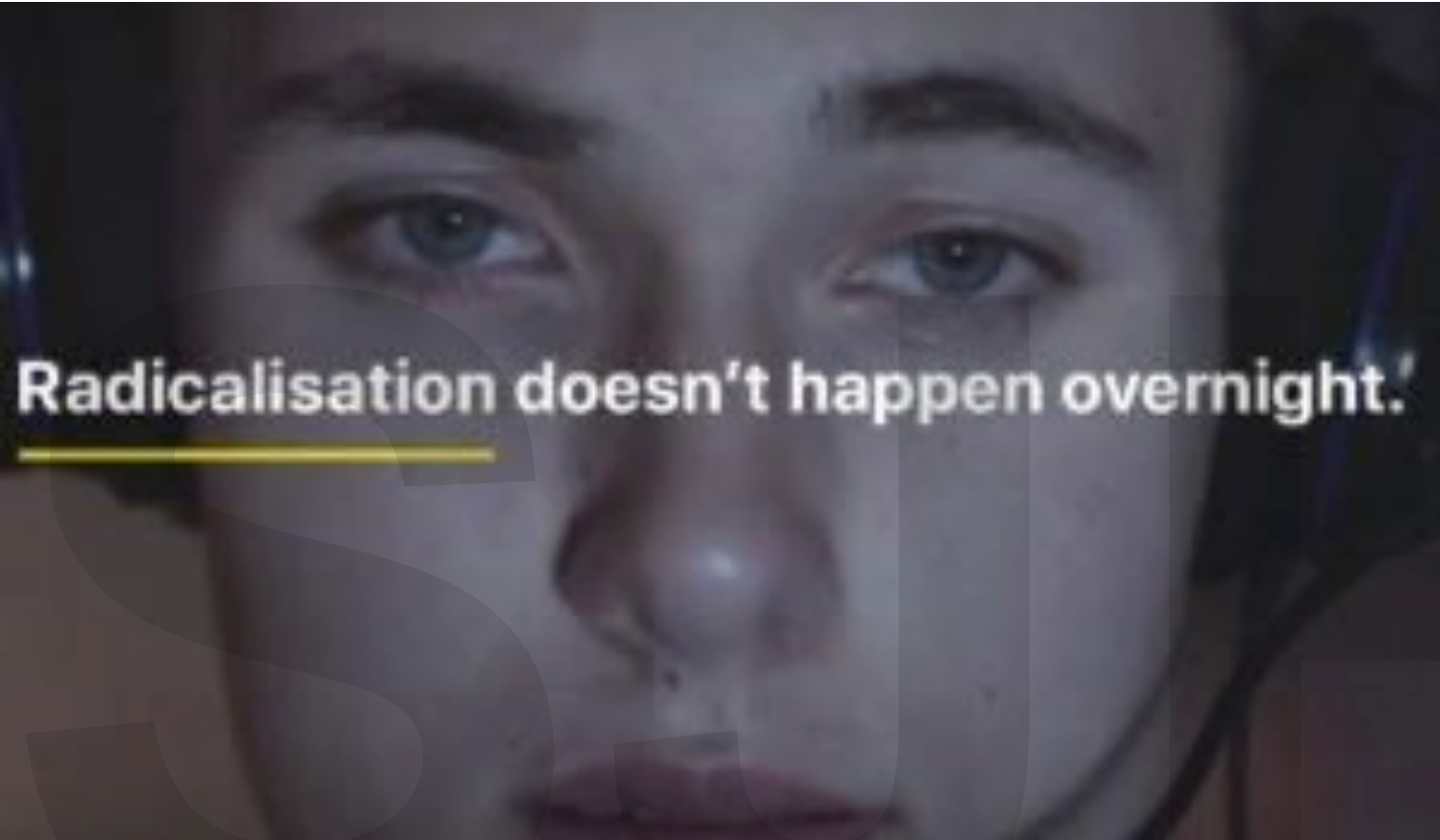
A guide for families
and professionals

Support during Coronavirus

Online Exploitation and Radicalisation; A guide for families and professionals

- The following guide's aims are;
- In unique times to pull together as caring communities and look after/protect one another
- For individuals to build on prior knowledge regarding radicalisation.
- How to spot the signs of radicalisation.
- What to do next to support the people we love
- To appreciate the risks in this current climate
- Understand that we can all help one another





Radicalisation doesn't happen overnight!

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- **Radicalisation**

- *'.....is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. ... Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental **British** values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.'*

- *19 Feb 2020*

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WHAT DOES PREVENT DO?

1

Responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.

2

Provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.

3

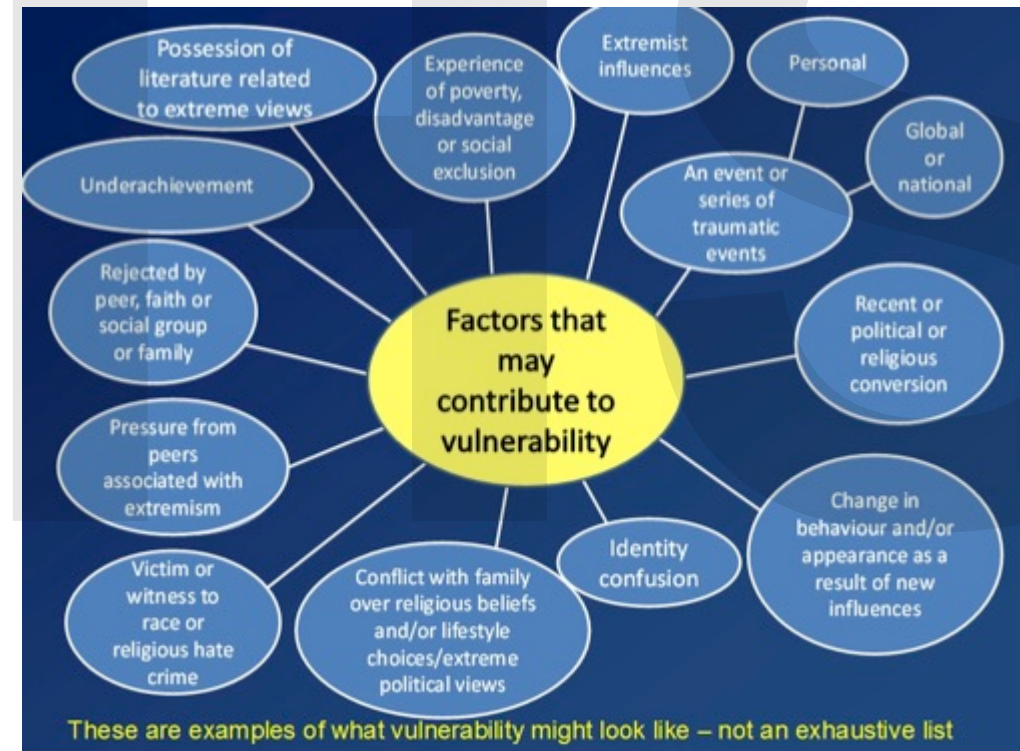
Works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

- **Prevent** is part of the **UK** counter-terrorism strategy, **CONTEST**.
- Its aim is to **stop** people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- **Prevent** will also mean intervening to **stop** people moving from **extremist** groups or from **extremism** into terrorist-related activity.

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Radicalisation can be difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include;

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.



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- Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of [bullying](#) or discrimination.
- Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.
- However, these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong.





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- Listen carefully to their fears and worries.
- Offer reassurance and comfort.
- Avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing.
- Help them find advice and support to [understand distressing events and feelings](#).
- Children can always contact [Childline](#) free and confidentially on the phone and online.
- <https://youtu.be/VOis5CFU8vs> 1 min 40
- <https://youtu.be/PyeVdGvgdS0> 3 mins



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- The following presentation and links have been provided by The Police, Counter Terrorism Branch, NSPCC and ChildLine.
- If pupils or families are worried about loved ones, people they know or neighbours please contact the police.
- School is here to listen and support too.
- These are difficult times for our community but by supporting each other we will make sure everyone is safe.

We recognise that this is a difficult time for parents and guardians and that the [Coronavirus](#) is having a significant impact on young people and families across the world.

The closure of schools means that opportunities for children to talk to and play with friends will be limited to online interaction. This will almost certainly lead to children spending more time online. Parents working from home may not be able to monitor their children's use of devices as they usually would.



Unfortunately, whilst rare, there are negative influencers and online groomers who use the internet, social media and online gaming to spread their extreme ideas, which children can be exposed to. Some of these ideas may be considered radical or extreme and when a person starts to support or be involved in them, this is called radicalisation.

Our experience of radicalisers is that they may link their extreme views to the global, national or individual response to Coronavirus which could be shown through films, images and discussions as;



- **Conspiracy theories**
- **Blaming other people for the virus and its impact on life.**
- **Hate against groups because of race, religion, sexuality and gender.**

Radicalisers will want as many people as possible to believe their ideas and sometimes encourage them to take action, which might break the law. This can be how people are drawn into terrorism.

Boredom could cause children to engage with new groups or individuals and this could make them vulnerable to those looking to influence young people.

[Online radicalisation](#) may be hard for parents to notice because it is a complex issue. There are a possible signs that someone may need some help (although a lot of them are quite common among teenagers), but look out for increased instances of:

- Exploring new and unusual websites, chat forums and platforms due to boredom or frustration.
- Joining new or secret groups since isolation.
- Speaking with new friends or being secretive about chats during online gaming or in forums.
- A strong desire to seek new meaning, identity and purpose.
- Using language you wouldn't expect them to know.
- Watching, sharing or creating films online linked to religious, political or racial hate.



Radicalisers can target young people by sending friend requests on popular sites and platforms to see who responds. They may strike up a conversation to build a relationship with a child and ask them to chat privately.

Often young people will be asked to continue discussions, not via the mainstream social media, but via other platforms and forums to give the radicaliser a greater degree of anonymity and can be less easy to monitor.





Firstly, we advise that you speak with the **Dedicated Safeguarding Lead** at your **child's school or college**. They will know your child and have had extra training to know how pick up on concerning behaviour. They can talk through your concerns, give advice and get extra support should you need it.

If you'd rather speak online, these websites can help you share your different concerns:

- If you live in Wales, [share your concerns about radicalisation here](#)
- You want to report any suspicious [terrorism concerns](#)
- If you need to report a [hate crime](#)
- You've seen something online that supports, directs or glorifies terrorism including websites, films or images [report them here](#).
- The **NSPCC** have a helpline 0808 800 5000 to talk to someone or an online form to share your concerns about your child



These are indicators that they might need help, but you know your child best and we advise that you speak with them first. Check in with them and ask them about what they are viewing, who they are speaking to and how they are feeling. This might feel difficult, but here are some tips to help you:

- Listen carefully to their fears and worries. There are some helpful tips [here](#).
- Avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing.
- There is advice and support to help them [understand Coronavirus](#)
- If they are finding it hard to cope with bereavement and grief - advice can be found [here](#).

You can get more information from the following websites, these will help you understand why people sometimes need more support if they have been radicalised, what is available and how to access it.



NSPCC



internet
matters.org



COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING



parent**INFO**
FROM CEOP AND PARENT ZONE



childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111