Prevent Duty

In order for childcare providers to fulfil the Prevent Duty, it is essential that staff is able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalization, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from risk of radicalization should be seen as part of childcare providers’ wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harm (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploration), whether these came from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

*The Prevent Duty;*

*Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers June 2015*

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The staff at Little Acorns has all taken training in Prevent Duty and the Channel Report. This is to help understand how, if needed, we as front line staff can identify patterns of behaviour that show whether a person is engaged in an ideology on causing harm or capable of committing violent acts.

Risk Assessment

The statutory guidance makes clear that childcare providers are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extreme ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting the children in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalization and what to do to support them.

The general risks affecting children and young people may vary from area to area, and according to their age. Childcare providers are in an important position to identify risks within a given local context. It is important that childcare providers understand these risks so they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way. At the same time childcare providers should be aware of the increased risk of on-line radicalization, as terrorist organizations such as ISIL seek to radicalize young people through the use of social media and the internet. The local authority and the local police will be able to provide contextual information to help childcare providers understand the risks in their area.

Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalization by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent Duty does not require childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into the family life but as with any other safeguarding risk; they must take action when they observe behaviour of with any concern.

Little Acorns have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalization. Some of these procedures are set out in our Safeguarding Policy.

All staff has undertaken “Prevent Duty” training:

* Identify children at risk
* Staffs all know Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Identification

Radicalization doesn’t happen over night, it is a gradual process that happens overtime. This makes it possible to intervene to steer vulnerable people away from being drawn into terrorist-related activities.

Prevent Pursue Protect Prepare

Prevent

Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This is delivered in partnership with a wide range of organisations.

Pursue

Prevent aims to dispute and stop terrorist acts, wherever possible by prosecuting those who have engaged in terrorist-related activity.

Protect

Protect aims to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against our interests overseas and reduce our vulnerability.

Prepare

Prepare aims to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where the attack cannot be stopped.

How can people be drawn in to acts of Terrorism?

Many factors associated with a person who becomes vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism include:

* Peer pressure
* Influence from other people
* The internet
* Bullying
* Crime and social behaviour
* Family intentions
* Race or hate crime
* Lack of self-esteem or identity
* Personal or political grievances

Making a referral

Raising our concerns: observations and information will not be used as an evidence gathering process, but it will be helpful to have clear concise information when making a referral. This is so the Channel specialists can accurately asses a person.

When we refer an individual the Channel Police Practitioner, it is useful to keep a record of your decision making.

Who to refer to

Little Acorns has local plans in place, as part of the Prevent statergy, for us to make a referral.

Our Channel Police Practitioner is:

* Prevent team @Essex police
* prevent@essex.police.uk
* Telephone 101 ask for Prevent Duty Team @ Essex
* [www.essexpolice.co.uk](http://www.essexpolice.co.uk)