

Extremism and radicalisation

There are many different types of extremism. A person can have extreme views that relate to religion, the far right, islamophobia, animal rights, politics or other issues - but each will involve significantly negative attitudes and prejudices towards others

Radicalisation is the process by which people come to support it. There are a variety of reasons why someone might be at risk of being radicalised, and they will be different for different people, but these may include

- Frustration with politics, a lack of money, housing or employment prospects
- A feeling of not being accepted by family, the community or the country in which they live
- Personal characteristics that make a person particularly vulnerable to exploitation, such as a learning disability, mental health issue or their age

Should I be concerned?

As a friend or family member, you are more likely to notice any changes in someone's behaviour. People can experience change for a variety of reasons and it certainly doesn't mean that they are being exploited for the purposes of extremism. However, if the changes you notice are sufficient to cause you concern, it's important that you raise it because

we can offer a wide range of protection and support services to help them

Protecting children and adults at risk of being radicalised



Why and how should I report?

“I don’t want to get my friend, family member or colleague in trouble”

When a report is made, it is considered by a multi-agency group of professionals called Channel. The focus of Channel is not about catching terrorists or spying on communities - it is entirely on protecting those at risk of radicalisation and supporting them to change direction in a way that will help them. If the right support is provided, the issues you are concerned about are likely to be easily solved in a way that will really help them

“I’m scared that if I report, I might become a target for abuse”

Reports can be made by email or over the telephone and are confidential but, if you are still concerned, reports can be made anonymously

Professionals can be contacted to make a referral - or just for advice - to

Council

<https://westcheshirelsab.co.uk/radicalisation>

Local Prevent Team

prevent@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

01606 362121

What will happen if I do?

If a concern is raised either to the Council or to our local Prevent Team

- An assessment is made about whether or not there is a risk specifically associated to extremism
- If no risk or vulnerability is found to exist, the case will go no further
- If the person is assessed as being vulnerable, but in a context completely unrelated to extremism - for example they have care and support needs - a referral may be made to a more appropriate support service
- If the person is deemed to be vulnerable to being radicalised (although not necessarily being radicalised at that time) then a multi-agency group of professionals - including the NHS, Children’s Services, Adult Services, the Police and Education - will meet to discuss the full range of that individual’s vulnerabilities and potential support needs, and a plan may be established to ensure that happens. This can range from help with family problems, health support, religious education, mentoring or even careers advice

Case Study

A concern was raised of a young man declaring extremist views in college. A professional linked to Channel talked to him and found that he was frustrated at his lack of career prospects, which led to him saying some things he regretted. The same professional reiterated that his remarks were wrong, helped him to build a new CV and enabled him to successfully find a job. He is now much happier and is thriving in his new role