**Prevent Screening Tool – Extremism**

The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

The objectives of Prevent are to:

* tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
* intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
* enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

**SCREENING TOOL COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS**

This screening tool must be completed by referrers who have contacted CASS regarding concerns about a child or young person (CYP) that include issues of harmful extremist beliefs and/or extremist behaviours. The Request for Support Form must also be completed and both documents must be forwarded to CASS.

It is critical The Request for Support Form is still completed as this covers the wider concerns and protective factors around the CYP and the family which are not covered in this screening tool. CASS Advisors together with social workers and team managers will use the information contained in both documents to decide the level of risk involved and the relevant support required by the CYP and family.

Birmingham children’s practitioners will share relevant referrals with extremism concerns with the Police who will decide when this needs to be passed onto Prevent; you do not need to contact Police or Prevent.

There are risk indicators included in the screening. A case may involve risks; please indicate all relevant risks; and provide information and context to the summary section.

It is **very important** you describe the **evidence** you have observed for each risk you have ticked in the summary of evidence boxes of each risk indicators. Please provide as much background information as possible to enable Birmingham Children’s Trust to make informed decisions. **If this section is not completed, the form will be returned to you** to be completed. If the screening tool in not fully completed, we will contact you to discuss to get a full picture.

Please link the concerns you are raising in this screening tool to the relevant section on concerns in the Request for Support Form to provide an overall picture of need. Also think about protective factors that are in place around the CYP and family reducing the harm related to extremist concerns.

You can access information on proscribed terrorist groups or organisations that are banned under UK law from [GOV.UK.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2)

You can access government advice on international travel from [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). Additionally, further information can be accessed locally in [Travel Guidance for International and Domestic Travel by Social Workers](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/2694/international-and-domestic-travel-301117-ct-130318.pdf) along with an [International Travel Request Form for Travel by Social Workers](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/2695/international-travel-request-form-ct-130318.doc).

Online material which promotes terrorism or extremism should be reported via the Home Office website.

**PART ONE – RISK INDICATORS**

**INDICATORS**

| **Risk Indicators** | **Tick** |
| --- | --- |
| Plans to travel to a conflict zone; or unexplained and/or sudden plans to travel to a country from which you can travel to a conflict zone |  |
| Demonstrates support for and/or is articulating extreme views that are of significant harm to themselves or others, and may refuse to acknowledge other viewpoints |  |
| Is living with someone who has a conviction against the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – known as TACT Offences |  |
| Is in contact with, is being influenced by, and/or shows support for individuals, groups, or organisations that are known to hold harmful extreme views and/or undertake harmful acts based on those views; this includes family members |  |
| Participation in an activity that might cause immediate harm to themselves or others based on them holding extreme views, e.g. a violent attack against others |  |
| Has disengaged from wider activities and interests and become fixated with a particular issue, viewpoint or way of living that is unhealthy and harmful to the CYP, and/or others |  |
| Is accessing and/or sharing material of an extremist nature that is of significant harm to themselves and/or others  e.g. that contains violent or disturbing images; that encourages people to undertake violent acts, etc. |  |
| Is spending time with unknown individuals that raises concern, including potential religious or sexual grooming |  |

| **Risk Indicators** | **Tick** |
| --- | --- |
| Demonstrates support for and/or is articulating extreme views that are/may be of harm to themselves or others, and finds it difficult to acknowledge other viewpoints |  |
| Is showing interest in, and may have contact with individuals, groups, or organisations that are known to hold harmful extreme views and/or undertake harmful acts based on those views; this includes family members |  |
| Is starting to disengage with wider activities and interests and spending more time focusing on a particular issue, viewpoint or way of living that may be unhealthy and harmful to the CYP or others |  |
| Is isolated from family, friends, peer and peer groups and/or is not forthcoming about how and who they spend their spare time with |  |
| Is accessing and/or sharing material of an extremist nature that is harmful to themselves and/or others.  e.g., that encourages people to develop harmful views about others that encourages people to isolate themselves and narrow their viewpoints, etc. |  |
| Has mental health concerns or developmental disorders (e.g., ASD) that make the CYP vulnerable to developing extreme views that are harmful to themselves or others |  |
| Has alcohol and/or substance abuse issues that makes the CYP vulnerable to developing extreme views that are harmful to themselves or others |  |
| Is at risk from harmful cultural practices. Please state the type of risk e.g., FGM, Forced Marriage, removal from education, honour-based violence, abuse linked to faith or belief, etc. |  |

| **Risk Indicators** | **Tick** |
| --- | --- |
| Is struggling with their own identity, sense of belonging and/or may feel out of place in wider society |  |
| A change in CYP’s views, appearance, behaviour, and wellbeing that starts to raise concern |  |
| Is easily lead by others making them susceptible to influence |  |
| Is becoming isolated from family, friends, peer and peer groups |  |

**RISK SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –**

**Please summarise what evidence you have in relation to the indicators you have ticked above. Please also outline what strengths are present in supporting the child and family with these risks. This section must be completed if you have indicated any risk/s above.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**PART TWO – ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS**

1. **Has the CYP experienced any significant life events or trauma that may be linked to the current risks?**

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| --- |
|  |

1. **a. Have you captured the voice of the Child – (this could be captured via speaking to the child directly about your concerns or by undertaking the Signs of Safety exercise i.e. The Three Houses** **and other assessment tools – please see links further below to access information and assessment tools.**

**b. Please also include any protective factors that are in place around the CYP and family reducing the harm related to extremist concerns.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **What actions have you or your organisation taken to address the concern/issues highlighted in your referral?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**NOTE:**

Referrers should be aware that working with extremism concerns is a developing area of practice in social work. As such the above indicators may change as more is understood about risks of extremism and how to work with CYP on these issues.

**[End of screening tool]  
 Prevent Duty Extremism Assessment Guidance**

The aim of this guidance is to provide children’s practitioners with an explorative set of questions to assess the nature of extremism concerns being presented by a child or young person (CYP) and their family.

There is not a separate assessment form to complete for cases with extremism concerns. Practitioners are asked to consider the questions below to help them explore and articulate the extremist concerns in the case. Practitioners’ responses to these questions should be included in the assessment tool being used be that the Early Help Assessment or the Family Assessment. This should draw on the Signs of Safety methodology focusing on concerns, strengths and what needs to happen.

Practitioners should include the information they have gathered from answering the enclosed extremism questions in whatever section of the Early Help or Family Assessment they feel is most appropriate. For example, information concerning a family member’s own extremist views may be included in sections on family background.

You can access information on proscribed terrorist groups or organisations that are banned under UK law from [GOV.UK.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2)

You can access government advice on international travel from [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). Additionally, further information can be accessed locally in [Travel Guidance for International and Domestic Travel by Social Workers](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/2694/international-and-domestic-travel-301117-ct-130318.pdf) along with an [International Travel Request Form for Travel by Social Workers](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/2695/international-travel-request-form-ct-130318.doc).

If you need a case consultation to help to understand the nature of the extremism risk presented or the level of risk posed contact in the first instance:

Angela Cresser - Early Help Prevent Lead

[angela.cresser@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk](mailto:angela.cresser@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk)

**If you are the lead family support or social worker for a case with extremist/radicalisation concerns, you should contact Angela Cresser - Early Help Prevent Lead for Children’s Social Care and Channel Link Representative as soon as you are allocated the case to discuss whether it needs to be referred to Channel or any other support.**

**Assessment Questions**

1. **Relationships and Networks**

Practitioners should consider the CYP’s family, friends and other individuals they have contact with, and any extremism risks they might pose, as well as the protective factors these people provide:

* How wide is the CYP’s network of friends and family? Does the CYP have contact with a limited or a variety of views and actions/behaviours? If they are limited, what are the potential reasons why they are limited? Does it seem to be impacting negatively on the CYP and how?
* Does the CYP have a strong network of friends and family who will protect them from potential harm caused by extremist views or actions/behaviours? Does the CYP and their family have contact with a range of services, organisations or groups that meet any needs they have? Is the family isolated? Is the family willing to engage with services?
* Is the CYP well-connected or isolated from their family and peers? Have they experienced rejection? Do they have insecure and/or conflicted relationships?
* Do the CYP’s carers, family, friends, or people they are connected with, demonstrate extremist views and/or actions/behaviours that might be harmful to the CYP?
* Do the CYP’s carers, family, friends, or other people they have contact with, have convictions under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – known as TACT Offences? What is the nature of these? Do they indicate the individual/s may pose harm to the CYP? How much contact does the CYP have with them and how influential are they?
* Is the CYP linked with individuals, groups or organisations that are known to hold harmful views and/or demonstrate harmful actions/behaviours? What is the nature of the CYP’s contact with them? Does this pose harm to them and others?
* Is the CYP spending time with people who are unknown to their other friends and family? Are they willing to talk about who these people are and how they met them?

1. **Views and Behaviour**

Practitioners should consider the CYP’s views and behaviour, and any indications of harm arising from these, as well as strengths that might counteract risks:

* Is the CYP causing them or others harm by articulating extreme views and/or by demonstrating harmful actions/behaviours based on those views? What are they and what is the impact? Does the CYP understand the harm that could be caused?
* Have the CYP and/or family travelled to or have plans to travel to a conflict zone, or have unexplained or sudden plans to travel to a country from which you can travel to a conflict zone?
* Is the CYP particularly closed in their views? How have they developed their views? Do the CYP’s views reflect normal developmental processes we would expect to see in CYP of their age?
* Does the CYP believe violence is justified to defend or support their ideology? Are they actively promoting their views amongst others?
* Is the CYP receiving a balanced education, providing insights into different viewpoints, religions, faiths and cultures? Do they happily engage with people from other backgrounds? Do they express polarised views and cannot appreciate other perspectives?
* Is the CYP accessing material (pictures, videos, text, etc.) that may be harmful to them and/or others around them? Is it age appropriate? How are they accessing it? Do they have unsupervised internet access? Why is the CYP accessing the material? Do they understand the harm it could cause?
* Do the CYP’s views and/or actions/behaviours represent understandable reactions to the CYP’s experiences, or the experiences of those around them? Has the CYP experienced inequality, deprivation, conflict, discrimination, harm or other issues, leading to a grievance that may lead them to cause harm to them or others? Do they feel victimised or targeted (by society, authorities, etc.)?
* Is the CYP struggling to understand their position or identity in society? Is this leading to isolation or a feeling they do not belong? Is it making them vulnerable to harmful viewpoints, groups or individuals that might offer them an identity?
* Does the CYP have a history of crime? Does it make them vulnerable to extremist concerns?

1. **Wellbeing - Mental Health and Substance Misuse**

Practitioners should consider the CYP’s overall wellbeing and whether they have any vulnerabilities making them more open to risk from extremism concerns:

* Does the CYP have mental health issues, development disorders, challenging behaviours and/or are they using substances and/or alcohol? Is this making them vulnerable to extremist views and/or actions/behaviours? For example, does it make them vulnerable to:
  + Developing and articulating harmful views or undertaking harmful actions/behaviours?
  + Becoming unhealthily fixated with particular issues? For example, spending a lot of time alone researching this issue and connecting with individuals/groups via the internet.
  + Spending time with people who hold views or demonstrate actions/behaviours that might be harmful to the CYP, and who may seek to influence the CYP in a way that is harmful to them and others?
* Is the CYP aware of their mental health, or development issues, and how this may make them vulnerable to harmful views or actions/behaviours)? Is the CYP aware of the impact of substance and/or alcohol use and how this may make them vulnerable to harmful views or actions/behaviours?
* Has the CYP changed recently and/or suddenly? What was the trigger? Have they experienced a trauma now or in the past that might explain a change in their views and/or actions/behaviours?
* How open is the CYP about their life and their interests? Who do they spend time with? What do they do with their spare time? Are there any indications of ‘grooming’, such as new possessions that cannot have been obtained by the CYP independently? Are they easily led by others? Do they seem ‘themselves’ to those around them?
* Is there any evidence of forced marriage, FGM, trafficking, removal from education, honour-based violence, or abuse linked to faith or belief?

1. **History of Extremism Concerns**

* Have there been previous ‘extremism’ concerns in relation to this CYP and/or their family? Have there been previous child protection concerns that might be related to the current extremism concerns?
* What were the concerns? Have these changed? What support was provided? How effective was this? How well did the CYP and family engage? When and why did the support finish?

**NOTE:**

Practitioners should be aware that working with extremism concerns is a developing area of practice in social work. As such the above questions may change as more is understood about the risks of extremism and how to work with CYP on these issues.

**[End of assessment questions]**

**Prevent Duty**

**Extremism Concerns**

**The new Prevent Duty guidance** (will not become statutory until 1st January 2024.

Also see the refreshed CONTEST Strategy from July 2023)

New guidance for England and Wales:

[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)

Old guidance (still in force until 31 Dec) **and** Scottish guidance:

[Prevent duty guidance: England, Scotland and Wales (2015) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance-england-scotland-and-wales-2015)

Collections page (i.e. overarching page linking old and new guidance):

[Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prevent-duty-guidance)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2023>

**Prevent Duty**

**Extremism Concerns – Birmingham Childrens Services - Right Help Right Time**

To support children’s practitioners in establishing the level of risk related to extremist concerns, some of the key indicators of extremism/Radicalisation have been mapped against the Right Help Right Time framework below. This is a guide only but may be helpful for practitioners in thinking about the varying levels of risk involved when extremism risks are present.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Universal** | **Universal Plus** | **Additional** | **Complex and Significant** |
| CYP demonstrates an interest in multiple viewpoints | CYP is showing an **interest** in extreme **views that may cause them harm** and is becoming less engaged in wider views and interests | **CYP** demonstrates extreme **views** that **are causing** harm to themselves or others, and refuses to acknowledge other viewpoints | **CYP** demonstrates extreme **views** that **are** **causing significant harm** to themselves or others |
| CYP is involved in a range of activities | CYP is showing an **interest** in extreme **actions** or **behaviour that may cause them harm** and is reducing involvement in wider activities | CYP demonstrates extreme **actions** or **behaviour** that **is causing** harm to themselves or others | CYP demonstrates extreme **actions** or **behaviour** that **are** **causing significant harm** to themselves or others |
| CYP’s carers, family and close contacts have and encourage the CYP to have a healthy interest in a range of views and behaviours | There are **indications** the CYP’s **carer/s, family or close contacts** hold **extreme views** and/or **actions/behaviours** that **may cause harm** to the CYP | The CYP’s **carer/s,** **family or close contacts** are demonstrating extreme **views** and/or **actions/behaviours** that **is causing harm** to the CYP | The CYP’s **carer/s,** , **family or close contacts** are demonstrating extreme **views** and/or **actions/behaviours** that **are causing significant harm** to the CYP |
| CYP has a healthy interest in a range of views and behaviours | CYP has a healthy interest in a range of views and behaviours | The **CYP** is showing **interest or is** **in contact** with **people** demonstrating **extreme views** and/or **actions/behaviours** that **is causing harm** to the CYP | The **CYP** has close **relationships** with **people** demonstrating **extreme views** and/or **actions/behaviours** that **are causing significant harm** to the CYP |

**Working with Children and Families**

To support CYP and their families effectively we need to fully understand the concerns from their perspectives and their life experiences. The tools in this guidance are designed to complement the **Signs of Safety approach** in the Request for Support Form, supporting practitioners to answer questions about what is going well, concerns and what needs to happen next.

* **The Three Houses** exercise will also support children’s practitioners to understand and appreciate the CYP’s perspective more fully.
* **Signs of Safety R**esources and other resources for working with children. can be accessed at: [Signs of Safety and Wellbeing Practice Framework - Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (lscpbirmingham.org.uk)](https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/working-with-children/early-help/signs-of-safety-and-wellbeing-practice-framework)
* **Educate Against Hate** provides information for developing resilience to online radicalisation/extremism): <http://www.educateagainsthate.com/>
* **Introduction to** **Prevent E-Learning Package**: <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/screen2>.
* **Report online material promoting terrorism or extremism**: <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism> (includes illegal or harmful information, pictures or videos found on the internet). Reports can be submitted anonymously.

**Support and Services for Extremism Concerns**

**Channel Support**

Channel is a multi-agency partnership helping to safeguard individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation, regardless of faith, ethnicity, or background. This is similar to the way in which individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs and other social issues are supported. By providing support to those most at risk, they can be diverted away from potential threats that might draw them into criminal activity.

Channel has access to a variety of support packages and interventions appropriate in working with risks of extremism that include:

* Providing Mentoring support providing personal guidance including addressing extremist ideologies, religious interpretations
* Enabling young people to develop life and social skills, for example dealing with peer pressure
* Anger management sessions
* Cognitive behavioural therapy to support attitudes and behaviours
* Constructive and enjoyable leisure activities
* Tailored Education and training activities
* Careers focused activities
* Family support including relationships and skills work
* Support with physical and/or mental health
* Housing support
* Drug and alcohol support

The above list is not exhaustive, and a combination of the above alongside other support may often be required.

Providers of support can include statutory and community partners. The Channel multi-agency panel is responsible for ensuring delivery of the overall package of support for Channel cases.

For more information on how to access support via Channel contact:

**Sean Arbuthnot - Prevent Manager Birmingham City Council-** [Sean.Arbuthnot@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Sean.Arbuthnot@birmingham.gov.uk)

**Prevent Referrals and the Channel Pathway**

PREVENT

Referral made to Prevent

Police undertake a ‘de-confliction’ process which checks whether there are any extremist concerns about the CYP and the family according to Police records. A decision is taken whether to assess case in more detail.

This assessment may well be taking place at the same time as Early Help/CSC assessments, hence families may be involved in these two assessment processes at the same time.

Cases are assessed by the Police using the ‘Vulnerability Assessment Framework’(VAF) document – rating the case on a number of extremism risk indicators listed on pages 4.

The Police may contact partners to share information on the CYP/Family.

Early Help/CSC Channel Link Representatives will check whether cases coming to Panel are already involved in Early Help/CSC and will update both parties on activities occurring through each process.

CSC Channel Link Representatives will link up with Early Help/CSC Lead workers with the Channel Lead agency.

Channel cases are reviewed on a 6 and 12 monthly basis to review the progress made against the original VAF and will close when risks have reduced sufficiently.

When cases are approved by the Channel Panel, the CYP and Families will be offered support through the Channel Programme. This support is entirely consensual and can be refused.

The support package will be led by an agency and will be a multi-agency approach, this will often involve CSC.

There is a discussion to decide whether the case is of a sufficient risk to be considered for support by the Channel Programme – this typically involves the Police, the Council’s /Trusts Prevent Lead and Early Help/CSC Channel Panel Representatives.

Cases are discussed at the Channel Panel to decide whether the CYP and Family should be offered support through the Programme.

CHANNEL

**Community Support**

There are several other community organisations that also provide support. Community or non-statutory partners providing support to vulnerable people need to be credible and understand the local community.

Practitioners should make the necessary checks to be assured of the suitability of support providers; including DBS checks and credibility evidence for those seeking to work with young people and vulnerable adults.

For advice and guidance contact - **Angela Cresser, Early Help Prevent Lead,**

[angela.cresser@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk](mailto:angela.cresser@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk)

**Support for Schools**

If you are working with a school that needs help to develop their curriculum activities to address Prevent and extremism concerns, contact:

For advice and guidance contact - **Ayisha Ali, Education Officer** - [ssi@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:ssi@birmingham.gov.uk)

**Community Engagement**

Supporting communities and civic organisation engage in the intervention and resilience work to enable inclusion and facilitate community action .

**Engagement**

**Rahila Mann, Prevent Community Engagement Officer** [rahila.mann@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:rahila.mann@birmingham.gov.uk)

**Youth Services**

**Habib Ullah, Prevent Youth Engagement Officer**

[habib.ullah@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:habib.ullah@birmingham.gov.uk)