Keeping children and young people safe against radicalisation and extremism

Information to help parents recognise possible signs of radicalisation and extremism; advice on keeping children safe, and guidance on how to respond to any concerns.

Haringey Council

Why has this leaflet been produced?

To offer advice and guidance to parents and carers who may have concerns about their children following recent high-profile cases involving young people who have become involved in dangerous extremist activity – in some cases leaving the country against the wishes of their families.

Recognising extremism

Signs that a young person may be vulnerable to extremism or radicalisation may include:

* Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships

* Secretive behaviour

* Losing interest in friends and activities

* Showing sympathy for extremist causes

* Glorifying violence

* Possessing illegal or extremist literature

Supporting children and young people to stay safe – tips for parents

Communication

* Know where your child is and who they are with – and check this for yourself

* Know your child's friends and their families

* Keep lines of communication open, listen to your child and talk to them about their interests

* Encourage your child to take up positive activities with local groups that you can trust

- Encourage debate and dialogue about current affairs as this can enable young people to see different points of view.

- Encourage your child to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds

- Help your child to understand the dangers of becoming involved in situations about which they may not have the full information

- Teach your child that expressing strong views and trying to change things for the better is fine, but taking violent action against others or supporting those that do is not appropriate

TV and Internet

- Talk to your child about what they see on the TV or the internet, and explain that what they see or read may not be the whole picture

- Discuss the risks around internet use, networks and devices, reminding young people that everything is not always as it seems

- Be aware of your child's online activity and update your own knowledge

- Know what social media and messaging sites your child uses

- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may be pretending to be someone else or telling them things that are not true

Getting Help and Prevention

- If you have any concerns that your child may be being influenced by others, get help – talk to someone you can trust

- If you feel there is a risk of a child leaving the country, consider what precautions you could take to prevent travel. You should also consider what access your child has to savings accounts or gifts of money from family and friends.

Confidential helpline

The Active Change Foundation (ACF) provides a confidential helpline to prevent British nationals from travelling to conflict zones: **020 8539 2770**

You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Anyone with concerns for the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person can contact:

- Haringey Council's Children and Young People's Service: **020 8489 1000**

- If there is an immediate threat of harm to others or information on imminent travel contact the police on 999 or the Anti Terrorist Hotline on **0800 789 321**.

Further sources of support and information

School – if you have a concern, please talk to your child's class teacher or another person in the school that you trust as soon as possible.They will be able to help and can access support for you and your child.

Useful websites

- **www.internetmatters.org**
  Information, advice and resources that can be used to help children stay safe online

- **www.ceop.gov.uk**
  CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account, protecting children from harm online and offline

- **www.bbc.co.uk/webwise**
  Information and support for safe use of the internet

For further advice on cyber safety visit:

- www.childline.org.uk
- www.cybersmile.org
- www.childnet.com