**Keeping the College Community Safe from Radicalisation and Extremism**

**A very real threat**

Terrorism is a very real threat to all our communities and terrorists or people with extremist views may try to exploit those who are the most vulnerable to being radicalised or influenced.

**This leaflet is designed to:**

* Raise your awareness of the dangers of extremism and terrorism
* Provide suggestions about how you can look to reduce this risk
* Signpost you to College contacts if you have any concerns about a member of the College community
* Signpost you to appropriate organisations should you have any concerns outside of College
* Introduce “British Values”

**Identifying Vulnerable People**

As a member of the College community you may identify patterns of behaviour that show that a person may be engaged in dangerous ideology, is intent on causing harm or is capable of committing violent acts.

There are a number of factors that might make someone more vulnerable and susceptible to being drawn into extremist behaviour including:

* Feelings of grievance and injustice
* Feeling under threat
* A need for identity, meaning and belonging
* A desire for status
* A desire for excitement and adventure
* A need to dominate and control others
* A desire for political or moral change
* Opportunistic involvement
* Family or friends involvement in extremism
* Mental health issues

Together these could indicate that this person could be drawn into terrorism or extremism.

**The dangers of extremism**

Extremism has existed in many forms throughout many societies both in the UK and abroad for centuries.

Legislative changes make it a duty for educational establishments to protect young people and adult and HE learners from extremism and to report any concerns that are identified. In addition it is important that we are all aware of and are able to identify potential radicalisation of others.

You will no doubt be aware from items in the local and national media that world events have led to an increased threat to our safety by extremist groups.

**How might someone be drawn towards extremist ideologies?**

**Online:**

The internet provides entertainment, connectivity and interaction. People may need to spend a lot of time on the internet while studying and they often use other social media and messaging sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram or Whatsapp etc. These can be very useful tools but we need to be aware that there are groups and networks that use these forms of media to reach out to others in order to communicate extremist messages.

**Peer interaction:**

People at risk may display extrovert behaviour, start getting into trouble at college or on the streets and mixing with others who behave inappropriately. However, this is not always the case. Sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. As part of some forms of radicalisation you could see someone’s behaviour seem to improve, they may become quieter and more serious about their studies; they may dress more modestly or differently and mix with a group of people who seem to be better behaved than previous friends.

**TV and media**

The media provide a view on world affairs. However, this is often a very simple version of events which are in reality very complex. Therefore vulnerable people may not understand the situation fully or appreciate the dangers involved in the views of some groups.

**Recognising extremism – signs 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 or viewing illegal or extremist literature
* Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as Muslims

Against Crusades or other non-proscribed extremist groups such as the English Defence League

**If you are an adult or higher education student at the college, how can you contribute to keeping members of the College safe?**

* Be aware of the signs outlined in this leaflet
* Some of you may well be on courses where information about extremism, terrorism and “Prevent” is covered in more detail due to the nature of your course. You may also be offered an online module of study on this topic. Therefore, please participate in such sessions as directed.
* If you become aware that a fellow student or another member of the college community may be being influenced by others, please talk to the Assistant Principal Student Services at Ashton Sixth Form College about your concerns: **0161 3302330**

**If you are a parent, how can you support children and young people to stay safe from being drawn into extremism?**

* Know where your son/daughter is, who they are with and check this for yourself
* Know your son’s/daughters’ friends and their families
* Keep lines of communication open, listen to your son/daughter and talk to them about their interests
* Encourage them to take up positive activities with local groups that you can trust
* Talk to them about what they see on the TV or the internet and explain that what they see or read may not be the whole picture
* Allow and encourage debate and questioning on local and world events and help them 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 them that expressing strong views and trying to change things for the better is fine but they should not take violent action against others or support those that do
* Be aware of your son’s/daughter’s online activity and update your own knowledge with regards to this area
* Know what social media and messaging sites your son/daughter uses
* Remind them that people they contact over the internet may be pretending to be someone else or telling them things that are not true
* Explain that anyone who tells them to keep things from their family or teachers is likely to be trying to do them harm or put them in danger
* If you have any concerns that your son/daughter may be being influenced by others seek help. Please contact the Assistant Principal Student Services at Ashton Sixth Form College: **0161 330 2330**.

**Advice for parents**

If you feel there is a risk of a child leaving the country, consider what precautions you could take to prevent travel. You might want to consider taking the precaution of locking their passport in a safe place. Some young people will use the excuse that they need to use a passport for confirming their age – they do not – they can apply for an identification card. To obtain an official photo ID for the UK visit: [**www.validateuk.co.uk**](http://www.validateuk.co.uk).

**Promoting British Values at College**

As a student at the College, you will also hear about “British Values”. You will encounter these values or principles throughout your learning programme. The Department for Education’s five-part definition of British Values includes:

* Democracy
* The rule of law
* Individual liberty
* Mutual respect and tolerance

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| **College contact**  Your college contact is the Assistant Principal Student Services at Ashton Sixth Form College, Chris Cox: 0161 3302330 |

**Confidential help outside of college**

You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously and for free on **0800 555 111**.

Keeping children and young people safe against radicalisation and extremism

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

Tameside Public Service Hub **0161 342 4101.**

**Imminent threat of harm to others contact:**

Police **999** or Anti Terrorist Hotline **0800 789 321**

**Further sources of support and information**

* <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness>This is the link to a free online training you may wish to complete.
* **www.educateagainsthate.com** is a government website with lots of useful information for parents and carers
* **www.internetmatters.org** has lots of information, advice and resources which can be used to help children/young people 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/0** Information and support for safe use of the internet

**For more advice on cyber safety visit:**

[**www.childline.org.uk**](http://www.childline.org.uk)

[**www.cybersmile.org**](http://www.cybersmile.org)

[**www.childnet.com**](http://www.childnet.com)

*This document has been adapted from Merton Council’s “Keeping Children and Young People Safe against Radicalisation and Extremism” leaflet. (merton.gov.uk)*