

## Are you worried about your child being influenced by extremist or terrorist messages?

Ealing Council wants to help parents and carers understand more about radicalisation and extremism and how some boys and girls can become at risk of being influenced by terrorist messages. You may have seen a number of UK cases reported by the media where families or young people have travelled to countries such as Syria or Iraq, either to live in areas controlled by terrorist groups known as IS, ISIS or Daesh or to join in armed conflict. This is a safeguarding and child protection concern that is an issue for all councils.

This leaflet explains more about how children and young people can be drawn in and gives advice to parents and carers on what they can do if they are worried.

Parents and carers are often in the best position to notice if there are any signs that their son or daughter may be at risk.

## How young people can be at risk

Extremists can target children and young people by influencing them to support terrorist causes. Radicalisers particularly target young people who may be especially vulnerable because of the issues set out below. Young people can be influenced into the radicalisation process regardless of their academic ability.

Terrorists may seek out young people and often use a distorted view of religion, politics and foreign policy to draw them in. Radicalisers will justify acts of violence and attacks against communities as legitimate and lawful. Young people can be in real danger and there is a growing concern amongst parents.

## Why might a young person be drawn towards extremist ideologies?

Questioning identity and faith

Need to raise self esteem

Need to 'belong' to a social group

Sense of injustice - personal, societal or in the world - want to make a difference

Affected by mental health issues

## Ways in which young people can become radicalised



### On-line

There are many benefits to the internet but there are also dangers. Extremists can try to lure young people through social media sites or apps such as Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and others.

Sometimes children can put themselves at risk online without realising and may come across unsuitable materials or begin talking or sharing information with people they don't know or who pretend to be someone else.

A new government website has recently been launched to provide parents and professionals with practical advice: [www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)



### Friendships and Relationships

Some young people may come across extremism through their friends or social networks. They may be encouraged to be secretive and alienated from usual friends and family.

Sometimes the opposite can happen where vulnerable individuals may make new friends or hang out in a new group and abandon old ones. Some extremists will seek to infiltrate community based organisations and pose as credible and trusted people so they can reach out to vulnerable children and young people to form unhealthy relationships.'



### TV and media

The media provide a view on world affairs but some of the channels may be a platform for extremist speakers and messages.

## What should parents /carers watch out for?



- Out of character changes in dress or behaviour
- Secretive or defensive behaviour
- Losing interest in friends and activities or forming unhealthy relationships.
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes that glorify violence
- Possessing illegal or extremist literature or promoting terrorist messages
- Watching extremist videos or lectures
- Listening to music by extremist groups
- Not behaving in an age appropriate way
- Having extremist views and showing intolerance of other cultures and faiths

## What can a parent/carer do to keep their child safe?

- Know where your child is and get to know their friends and their families.
- Encourage them to take up positive activities.
- Talk to your child about what they see on the TV and the internet. Explain that what they see or read may not be the whole picture and encourage debate to help them see different points of view.
- 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
- Explain that anyone who tells them to keep secrets from their family or teachers is likely to be trying to do them harm or put them in danger
- Encourage your child to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds.
- Teach them that expressing their views is fine but encourage this to be via lawful positive action.
- Update your own knowledge including about the internet. (See further help section)
- If you feel there is a risk of your child leaving the country, consider locking away their passport. Check what access your child has to savings accounts and suggest any gifts given to them are not in cash.

*Listen to your child and talk to them about their interests.*



*Provide your child with a safe space to discuss their concerns and views.*

## What to do and who to contact if you think your child is at risk



- If you have any concerns that your child may be being influenced by others - get help.
- Talk to someone you can trust. This might be a family member or someone from your community or a religious leader.
- You can also talk to your child's school- perhaps a class teacher or other person in school that you trust.
- You can also talk to a member of the Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS) on 020 8825 8000 (24hrs).
- Where you believe there is an immediate threat of harm to your child or others contact the Police **999 (for emergencies) 101 (for non-emergencies)**

## Further help and support

### What will happen if I tell someone about my concerns?

We know that reporting concerns about your own child or another child/young person in your family may be a very difficult thing for many parents/carers to do. Your information will be treated confidentially unless you have agreed to this being shared or if there are serious concerns about the welfare of a child.

If there is a need to take immediate action to protect a child, you will be given information about what will need to happen and kept informed throughout the child protection process.

Where concerns are developing but do not require a child protection response, it may be that you are supported through Ealing's early help process. This can involve professionals who already know your child e.g. teachers, youth workers working with you and your family to come up with a plan together to take action to address any concerns you may have.

### Further Information on radicalisation and extremism and risks to young people can be found at:

#### Families Against Stress and Trauma (FAST)

This site provides vital information for parents concerned to understand the risks if children travel to Syria. [www.familiesmatter.org.uk](http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk)

**Prevent Tragedies** is a website also providing information and advice to prevent more young people putting themselves at risk and to help families.

[www.preventtragedies.co.uk](http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk)

### Further Information on how to keep your child safe online can be found at:

**The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)** works to protect children from harm online and offline. Provides resources for parents and young people of all ages on website

**ThinkUKnow** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Internet Matters** is an organisation aiming to help parents keep their children safe online.

[www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation](http://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation)

### Where can I get help to develop my skills and knowledge of the internet?

If you need to learn more about internet safety yourself, contact Ealing's Family Information Service (FIS) who can tell you what help is available locally.

Tel: **020 8825 5588**

Email: [children@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:children@ealing.gov.uk)

Website: [www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)

## If English is not your first language...

This document contains information about council services. If you are unable to read it and you don't know anyone who can read it for you, please contact our customer service centre at the address below.

تحتوي هذه الوثيقة معلومات حول خدمات البلدية. إذا أنت غير قادر على قرائتها أو لا تعرف أي واحد من يستطيع قرائتها لك، الرجاء الاتصال بمركز خدمات زبائننا في العنوان تحت.

કાઉન્સિલની સેવાઓ બારામાં જાણકારી/માહિતી આ દસ્તાવેજમાં છે. જો તમે તેને વાંચવામાં અસમર્થ હો અને તમે એવા કોઇપણને જાણતા ન હોય કે જે તે તમારા માટે વાંચી દે તો કૃપા કરીને અમારી કસ્ટમર સર્વિસીઝનો અનુસરણીમાંના સરનામે સંપર્ક કરો

Dokument ten zawiera informacje o usługach oferowanych przez urząd miejski Osoby, które nie są w stanie go przeczytać oraz nie mają kogo poprosić o jego przeczytanie, proszone są o kontakt z centrum obsługi klienta na adres znajdujący się poniżej.

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਤੋਂ ਅਸਮਰੱਥ ਹੋ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਣਦੇ ਜੋ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਸੁਣਾ ਸਕੇ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਗਾਹਕ ਸੇਵਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨਾਲ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Dukumintigan waxaa ku qoran macluumaad muhiim ah oo ku saabsan adeegyo Kownsalku bixiyo. Haddii aadan akhrin karin isla markaasna aadan haysan ama aqoon qof kuu akhriya, fadlan la soo xiriir xafiiskeena adeegga macaamiisha (customer service centre) oo ciwaankiisu hoos ku yaalo.

உள்ளூராட்சி மன்ற சேவைகளைப்பற்றிய தகவல்களை இப்பத்திரம் கொண்டுள்ளது. உங்களுக்கு இதை வாசிக்க இயலாதிருந்து உங்களுக்காக வாசிக்க வேறொருவரும் இல்லாவிட்டால், தயவுசெய்து எமது வாடிக்கையாளர் சேவை மையத்தை கீழுள்ள முகவரியில் தொடர்புகொள்ளவும்.

اس دستاویز میں کونسل کی سروسوں کے بارے میں معلومات دی گئی ہے۔ اگر آپ یہ نہیں پڑھ سکتے اور ایسے کسی شخص کو نہیں جانتے تو آپ کو یہ پڑھ کرنا سیکھنا ہے، تو براہ کرم ہمارے کسٹمر سروس سنٹر سے نیچے دئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کیجئے۔

Ealing Council, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2HL.  
Tel: 020 8825 5000

Concerned your child might be influenced by **extremism and terrorism?**

Information for parents and carers

Children's Services

 **Ealing**  
[www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)

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