



Prevent / Anti-Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

Section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act (2015) places a duty on certain bodies 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Regent Guardians is one of those bodies as it has a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security.

The Prevent Strategy (2011) is part of the UK's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent Duty

Regent Guardians staff need to be able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Regent Guardians can also build young people's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. 'Extremism' is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It also includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

The general risks affecting children and young people can vary from area to area, and according to their age. Regent Local Guardians, host families and drivers should be in an important position to identify risks within their local context. Regent Guardians also need to be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as ISIL seek to radicalise young people using social media and the internet.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. Regent Guardians staff need to be alert to changes in students' behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Young people at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and react proportionately. Staff will not be expected to unnecessarily intrude into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must act when they observe behaviour of concern.

Training

The Designated Safeguarding Lead DSL (Helen Collier) undertakes Prevent awareness training and provides advice and support to other members of staff on protecting young people from the risk of radicalisation. This happens during a staff member's induction to Regent Guardians and is updated at least annually. Students will also be alerted to the Prevent policy upon joining Regent Guardians through their Local Guardian.

Procedure

If Regent Guardians staff or students do have a concern about a young person, they should follow Regent Guardians normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing their concerns with the DSL. Further steps can then be taken by the DSL to refer on to the Local Children Safeguarding Board and/or seek advice from other involved parties such as schools.

Regent Guardians DSL 24-hour contact number: 07799 819787

In Prevent priority areas of the UK, the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support.

The local police can also be contacted by dialling 101 (non-emergency number).

The Department for Education (DfE) has a dedicated helpline (Tel: 020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Email: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

The helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a young person being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.