



Policy Title	Date Implemented or Date of Last Review	June 2023
Child Protection – Anti - Radicalisation	Date of Next Review	June 2026

Policy

Good News Nwk Ltd. (the Home) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its resident children. Safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability and everyone living in or working in the home is expected to counter extremism, and uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Unfortunately the real and present danger from extremism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.

The home will strive to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about such exploitation and potential radicalisation; that they understand that children and young people may meet extremism and radicalisation in many forms, either face to face, or through modern media such as the internet, twitter, Facebook etc. and ensure that they work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that children are safe from harm.

Procedure

Definition of the radicalisation process

Radicalisation is not a single process, but a sequence of events.

Pre-radicalisation is an individual's life prior to radicalisation, **self-identification** is where the individual comes to identify with radical movements, **indoctrination** is where the individual focuses on their beliefs and they intensify their understandings and finally **radicalisation** is where the individual now starts to act based upon their new beliefs.

Silber & Bhatt 2007

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Extremism is often 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. **Extremism** is also defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

The process of radicalisation may not ultimately result in acts of terror, but the possibility that this might happen is sufficient reason for the home to maintain vigilance at all times.

Maintaining vigilance and awareness

There have been several occasions both locally and nationally, within the United Kingdom in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

It would be foolish to think that for some reason, perhaps based upon location, or a lack of previous problems in this regard, that the children resident in the home are not vulnerable: they are extremely vulnerable, and staff are to remain vigilant to any signs that the process of radicalisation might have started, or has reached a conclusion.

Any member of staff who has any concerns whatsoever in this regard should discuss the matter with the Manager of the home, and subsequently the child.

Maintaining a positive culture

It is very important that the home itself, its staff, and the expression of its values, ethos and principles demonstrates the very best practice in terms of diversity, respect, tolerance and fairness. The home's policy on diversity in care, for example states:

The home will also provide additional training on "Diversity in Care" on a regular basis, and in proportion to the number of children from different racial or cultural backgrounds. Underpinning this training are the following principles of good practice

- *acknowledging individual beliefs and identity;*
- *working in an anti-discriminatory way;*
- *supporting individual rights and choices;*

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- *communicating effectively;*
- *providing and gathering important information;*
- *maintaining the confidence of those being cared for, including respecting their views and rights and confidentiality;*
- *developing empathy.*

Introducing further, the values of freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values, then in this way it is hoped that children will be discouraged from, and not feel the need to enter into the very process of radicalisation itself (self-identification with radical movements).

The home believes that:

- a) There is no place for extremist views of any kind;
- b) It is essential that our children see the home as a safe place where they can discuss and explore controversial issues safely and in an unbiased way and where staff encourage and facilitate this;
- c) Extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect the children in our care;
- d) Education is a powerful weapon against radicalisation and extremism; equipping children with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way is a powerful weapon against evil influences; as well as ensuring free debate internally, the home will work with each child's school so as to ensure that the subject is being discussed and acted upon within the PSHE curriculum, as well as working with others who are partners, with the home, in safeguarding the children entrusted to its care.

Children and young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age and which may emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times children may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by children or staff, visitors or parents will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with. Where misconduct by a staff member is proven the matter may, in certain circumstances be referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service for further action.

It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore staff within the home will strive to equip them with the confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance they need to have as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by children of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of the home, such as in school, in leisure centres, health facilities etc.;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Children accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
- Local schools, Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings;
- Children voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives;
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- Intolerance of difference;
- Inappropriate views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture;
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Understanding the risks, reducing them and intervening when necessary

Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation include:

- **Identity Crisis** – the child is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
- **Personal Crisis** – the child may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their previous friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- **Personal Circumstances** – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the child's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- **Unmet Aspirations** – the child may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- **Experiences of Criminality** – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
- **Special Educational Need** – children may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing any of the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.



The home will help support children who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of its wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a child is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that child is offered mentoring.

Staff will be alert to the fact that whilst extremism and radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm

Although the home's primary concern is to maintain vigilance, and early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability, all staff are required to report (without delay) instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect or if they have concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism.

References to Legislation and Quality Standards	
Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015	Regulation 12
Quality Standard	Protection of Children