



# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## Prevention of Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Reviewed on: 04/01/2022

Reviewed by: Chris Foley

Signed: 

Next Review Date: January 2023

Directors: David Bendell & Christopher Foley  
Business Operations Manager: Debra Wilson

## PREVENTION OF EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY

Any member of staff or student at Oxford Energy Academy who have any concerns regarding the issues identified within this guidance policy should report those concerns immediately and no later than the end of the working day to the Directors or their Tutor  
Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding – Chris Foley (Director)

### INTRODUCTION

Oxford Energy Academy provides training for learners aged 16-24 on our apprentice program who reside in mainly in Oxfordshire.

The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people. This policy is designed to provide a clear framework to structure and inform our response to safeguarding concerns for those young people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism. In addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in identifying appropriate interventions based on the threshold of need and intervention model and the Channel process (see below).

### DEFINITION

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. Extremism is 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.

We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas (HM Government Prevent Strategy, 2011).

### COMMITMENT

Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion, Oxford Energy Academy aims to guide our students to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action. We take extremely seriously our key role in preparing all our young people for life in modern Britain.

We aim to encourage, working towards a society with a common vision and sense of belonging by all.



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## PURPOSE

### Oxford Energy Academy Communities:

- a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued.
- a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all.
- a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in Oxford Energy Academy and in the wider community.

### National Guidance and Strategies:

- PREVENT is a key part of the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.
- PREVENT happens before any criminal activity takes place.
- PREVENT is about recognising, supporting, and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

## OBJECTIVES

All staff should have an awareness of the PREVENT agenda and the various forms of radicalisation takes in being able to recognise signs and indicators or concern and respond appropriately.

The PREVENT strategy objectives are:

**Ideology:** respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.

## VULNERABILITY/RISK FACTORS

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable young people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism.

The accepted view is that a complex relationship between the various aspects of an individual's identity determines their vulnerability to extremism.

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

The following indicators may help to identify factors that suggest a young person, or their family may be vulnerable or involved with extremism:

#### **Vulnerability Identity Crisis:**

- Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.

#### **Personal Crisis:**

- Family tensions
- sense of isolation adolescence
- low self-esteem
- disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends
- searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

#### **Personal Circumstances:**

- Migration
- local community tensions
- events affecting country or region of origin
- alienation from UK values
- having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.

#### **Unmet Aspirations:**

- Perceptions of injustice
- feeling of failure
- rejection of civic life

#### **Criminality:**

- Experiences of imprisonment
- poor resettlement/reintegration
- previous involvement with criminal groups

#### **Access to Extremist Influences:**

- Reason to believe that the young person associates with those known to be involved in extremism



- Possession or distribution of extremist literature/other media material likely to incite racial/religious hatred or acts of violence
- Use of closed network groups via electronic media for the purpose of extremist activity

#### Experiences, Behaviours, and Influences:

- Reason to believe that the young person associates with those known to be involved in extremism
- Experience of peer, social, family or faith group rejection
- International events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the young person resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour
- Verbal or written support of terrorist attacks
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime
- Extended periods of travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Evidence of fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this
- Experience of disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion
- History of criminal activity
- Pending a decision on their immigration/national status

#### More Critical Risk Factors Include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing extremist literature
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance/behaviour

#### REFERRAL AND INTERVENTION PROCESS

Any identified concerns as the result of observed behaviour or reports of conversations to suggest that the young person supports terrorism and/or extremism, must be reported immediately and no later than the end of the working day to Chris Foley; Director who is the named designated safeguarding professional.

Where investigations need to be carried out (even though parental consent may be withheld), a referral to Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board should be made in line with Oxford Energy Academy's Child Protection Policy. Email: [oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk) 01865 815843.

However, it should be recognised that concerns of this nature, in relation to violent extremism, are most likely to require a police investigation (<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>) 01865 841148.

Some identified concerns which may have a security dimension to them and for this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations.

Thames Valley Police will carry out an initial assessment and, if appropriate, set up a multiagency meeting to agree actions for supporting the individual.

If it is deemed that there are no concerns around radicalisation, appropriate and targeted support will be considered for the young person.