

**Birmingham City Council  
Prevent Duty:  
Early Help and Children's Social Care  
Extremism Guidance and Assessment Support**

**Authors:**

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## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide background information and support for family support workers, social workers and wider children's practitioners involved with cases where there is a suspected extremism concern with regards to a child or young person (CYP). This document contains an extremism screening tool, assessment guidance and case pathways.

## Background

### Prevent

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to give due regard to support people from being drawn into terrorism. This includes identifying individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assessing risk and developing appropriate support to address that risk. The government states that this needs to be incorporated into existing policies and procedures; in particular the need to do this within local authority safeguarding is highlighted.

The Prevent Strategy was published in 2011 as part of the government's overall counter terrorism strategy – CONTEST. Prevent is intended to work with all forms of terrorism from the Far Right to Islamic extremism.

Prevent defines radicalisation as:

"The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism."

Prevent defines extremism 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."

As such, both extremist views and behaviours are the focus for government intervention. However holding extremist views and/or demonstrating extremist behaviours does not mean an individual is being radicalised or will engage in terrorism. Hence in Birmingham our focus is on extremist views and behaviours **that may be or are causing harm**, as opposed to a focus on extremist views and behaviours that 'society' may disagree with, but are not causing harm.

In Birmingham we are strongly committed to meeting the Prevent duty. We have reviewed Home Office Tools, existing research and other local authorities' approaches drawing on the existing knowledge base to create this guidance for Early Help and Children's Social Care (CSC) services in the city.

This guidance document contains a screening and assessment tool to explore extremism concerns. This is a challenging practice area. To date we have not found any other examples of such screening tools and we believe our guidance is at the forefront of practice in this field. We are keen to learn from our own and others experiences, and to continue developing our guidance and tools as knowledge and experience in this field grows.

## Channel

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) also requires local authorities and other local partners to establish local panels to implement the Channel Programme. In Birmingham the Channel Panel is led by the Prevent Programme Team, which is overseen by Waqar Ahmed – Prevent Manager, 0121 303 7682 / 07557 203290, [waqar.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:waqar.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk).

Referrals are made to Channel when it is believed CYP or adults are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. When referrals are received, the CYP or adult is assessed in terms of the level of vulnerability to being radicalised. The assessment is completed by the police (using the VAF – the Vulnerability Assessment Framework) and police intelligence on the individual and family is utilised in that assessment. If the case meets the Channel threshold the individual and family may go on to receive tailored support from Channel funded via Prevent. This is a consensual process. Individuals that are under police investigation cannot be supported by Channel.

Children's practitioners need to be mindful that the Channel referral process and CSC referral process are separate, and use different assessment processes and tools to determine extremism concerns.

See page 7 for an overview of the CSC referral process and page 22 for an overview of the Channel referral process.

Links to key documents:

Prevent Duty Guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)

Channel Duty Guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance)

## The Role of Social Work in Extremism

Extremism is a complex and developing area of social work practice. It is complex because what one person may regard as extreme, another person may view as a perfectly reasonable viewpoint. Adults and children have the right to hold views others may regard as extreme. Extremist examples include the far right, religious or cultural positions, animal rights and environmental causes.

Our work as children's practitioners is to support CYP and families when extreme views **start to pose harm** to themselves and others. This may be through Early Help or CSC interventions. Extremism concerns feature at all levels of the Right Service Right Time model, and will often involve Early Help where concerns are emerging but are not currently harmful (see page 18 for Right Service Right Time extremism concerns).

It is important the process of supporting CYP and families with extremism concerns does not discourage CYP from exploring different viewpoints or stop them from debating inequalities, injustices, the impact of war, national and international relations, and other local or world issues. Interventions offered to CYP who demonstrate extremist views can include providing support to CYP to articulate and develop their views in safe spaces.

Children's practitioners are not expected to become experts on extremism. What practitioners need to be able to do is ask the right range of questions and know when to seek advice from others when they are unsure.

All social workers and family support workers should have received training based on the Home Office WRAP3 training course to develop their understanding of extremism and relevant government policy. If you have not received this please contact Colvin White to find out when the next session is running.

Colvin White, Early Help - Prevent Lead, 0121 303 9905 / 07920 088 512,  
[colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk)

## **Understanding Extremism**

### **Channel Guidance – Vulnerability Factors**

The Home Office have developed a Vulnerability Assessment to be used under its Channel programme to assess the extent to which individuals are vulnerable to the risk of being drawn into terrorism. This contains 22 vulnerability factors and is used to decide whether the individual has a sufficient level of vulnerability to be offered support under the Channel programme.

Children's practitioners do not assess CYP and families against these factors however we have included these here so you are aware of them. The factors are:

#### **Engagement with a cause, group or ideology:**

1. Feelings of grievance and injustice
2. Feeling under threat
3. A need for identity, meaning and belonging
4. A desire for status
5. A desire for excitement and adventure
6. A need to dominate and control others
7. Susceptibility to indoctrination
8. A desire for political or moral change
9. Opportunistic involvement
10. Family or friends involvement in extremism
11. Being at a transitional time of life
12. Being influenced or controlled by a group
13. Relevant mental health issues

#### **Intent to cause harm:**

14. Over-identification with a group or ideology
15. 'Them and Us' thinking
16. Dehumanisation of the enemy
17. Attitudes that justify offending
18. Harmful means to an end
19. Harmful objectives

#### **Capacity to cause harm:**

20. Individual knowledge, skills and competencies
21. Access to networks, funding or equipment
22. Criminal Capability

Children's practitioners should be conscious that individuals can demonstrate traits such as grievance and injustice without being vulnerable to radicalisation; similarly displaying these does not make someone an extremist. The background context and information surrounding the demonstration vulnerabilities is critical in assessing whether demonstrating these traits is causing harm or not.

The tools and guidance contained in this document take the above vulnerabilities into consideration, translating these into a series of explorative questions about the CYP and their family to support practitioners to consider the full nature of any extremism concerns present and their underlying context. See pages 9 and 14.

### **Academic and Research Contributions**

It is valuable for children's practitioners to be aware of commentaries that have been made alongside the government's Prevent Strategy and Channel Programme to help understand the full nature of extremist concerns.

Some commenters feel there is too much focus on the individual and the vulnerabilities they have in relation to extremism, and not enough focus on the socio-cultural factors, deprivation, international politics, foreign policy, war and other macro structural factors that arguably also make individuals vulnerable to extremism (e.g. Stanley and Guru, 2015; Kundnani, 2012). It is important that practitioners also **look to these wider explanations** in exploring extremist concerns being demonstrated; this will enhance practitioners' understanding of CYP and family and how to support them effectively. You will see this has been incorporated in the tools and guidance within this document.

Commenters have also noted that some of the traits considered as vulnerabilities such as creating an identity, seeking adventure and a desire for moral change are things that CYP will explore in normal childhood and adolescent development stages and this should not be discouraged (e.g. Coppock and McGovern, 2014). This guidance stresses **the importance of encouraging CYP to develop and explore their views**, so CYP do not feel they need to hide their identities and become more isolated.

Commenters have also stressed the right for individuals to hold views. In 2015 Judge Munby concluded in a CSC case where the father supported the EDL, that the parent's political and ideological beliefs alone did not constitute significant harm (McKendrick and Finch, 2016). Hence this guidance focuses on **whether holding or acting on extremist views is causing harm** to the individual or others.

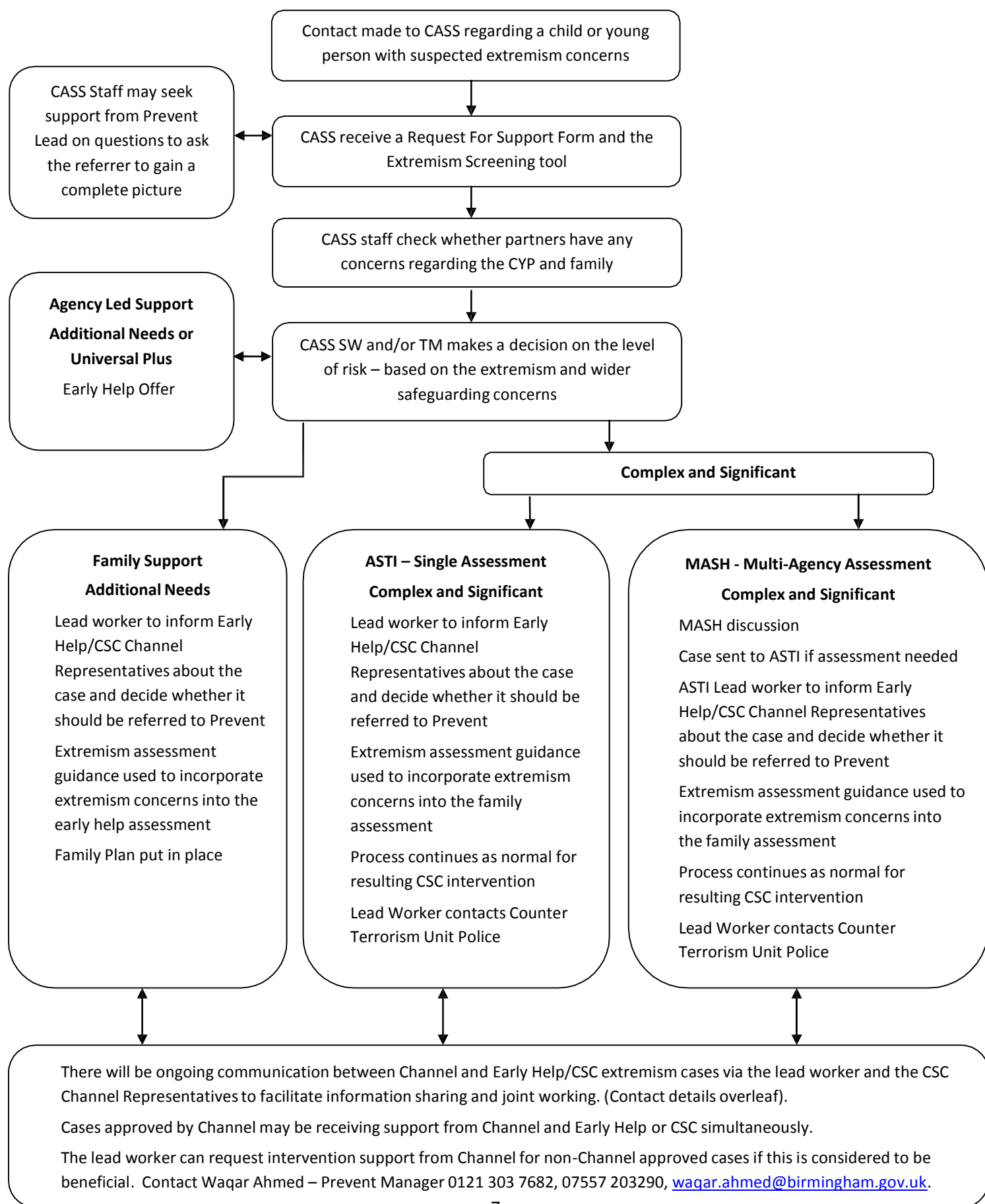
In practice Prevent and Channel has focused predominantly on the Muslim population and commenters note the potential negative impact this may have on isolating Muslim populations and creating potential stigma. In 2011 the Association of Chief Police Officers reported that 90% of people referred to Channel are Muslims (Coppock and McGovern, 2014). The global context of terrorist activities and the prominence given to Islamic extremism has arguably created a situation where practitioners may feel at pressure to act, given the potential consequences of not acting. Practitioners need to **respond proportionately** to potential concerns and look for evidence of risk as with all areas of CSC.

Practitioners should consider all forms of extremism be that far right, environmental, animal rights, religious and/or cultural.

**References:**

- Coppock, V and McGovern, M. (2014). 'Dangerous Minds'? Deconstructing Counter-Terrorism Discourse, Radicalisation and the 'Psychological Vulnerability' of Muslim Children and Young People in Britain. *Children and Society*. 28. Pp 242-256.
- Kundnani, A. (2012). Radicalisation: the journey of a concept. *Race and Class*. 54 (20). Pp 3 – 25.
- McKendrick, D. and Finch, J. (2016). 'Under Heavy Manners?': Social Work, Radicalisation, Troubled Families and Non-Linear War. *British Journal of Social Work*. Pp 1-17.
- Stanley, T. and Guru, S. (2015). Childhood Radicalisation Risk: An Emerging Practice Issue. *Practice: Social Work in Action*.

## Children's Social Care Extremism Case Pathway



## **Early Help and CSC Channel Link Representatives**

Colvin White, Early Help - Prevent Lead, 0121 303 9905 / 07920 088 512;  
[colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk)

Maria Jardine, Head of Service – Early Help and Family Support, 077680 25323;  
[maria.jardine@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:maria.jardine@birmingham.gov.uk)

Maria is also the Operational Lead for Extremism for Early Help and CSC.

## **Lead Family Support/Social Worker Instructions**

If you are the lead family support or social worker for a case with extremist concerns you should contact the Early Help and CSC Channel Link Representatives above as soon as you are allocated the case to discuss whether it needs to be referred to Channel.

If you are working on a case and extremism concerns emerge, and you believe it should be referred through to Prevent, again please contact the above Channel Link Representatives to discuss this.

## **Consent**

Consent should be gained as early as possible, and preferably by the referring agency. When consent has not been gained by the referrer, the lead allocated worker should have a conversation about consent before any information is shared. By taking reasonable steps to secure consent, professionals can maintain the trust of children and families, and ensure the best prospect of effective assessments and interventions.

However, there may be exceptional circumstances where gaining consent may put the child and/or others at an increased risk, or where a delay in information sharing may increase risk of harm. See the Birmingham Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership guidance on Consent, Information Sharing and Thresholds Guidance (December 2016).



## Birmingham Children's Social Care – Prevent Duty Extremism Screening Tool

### SCREENING TOOL COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

This screening tool must be completed by referrers who have contacted CASS regarding concerns about a child or young person (CYP) that include issues of harmful extremist beliefs and/or extremist behaviours. The Request For Support Form must also be completed and both documents must be forwarded to CASS.

It is critical The Request For Support Form is still completed as this covers the wider concerns and protective factors around the CYP and the family which are not covered in this screening tool. CASS Advisors together with social workers and team managers will use the information contained in both documents to decide the level of risk involved and the relevant support required by the CYP and family.

Birmingham children's practitioners will share relevant referrals with extremism concerns with the Police who will decide when this needs to be passed onto Prevent; you do not need to contact Police or Prevent.

There are three sets of risk indicators included in the screening – high, medium and low. A case may involve risks at all three levels; please indicate all relevant risks; your answers do not need to be confined to one level of risk.

It is **very important** you describe the **evidence** you have observed for each risk you have ticked in the summary of evidence boxes following each set of risk indicators. Please provide as much background information as possible to enable Children's Social Care to make informed decisions. **If this section is not completed, the form will be returned to you** to be completed. In the past we have received referrals without enough context and evidence.

Please link the concerns you are raising in this screening tool to the relevant section on concerns in the Request For Support Form to provide an overall picture of need. Also think about protective factors that are in place around the CYP and family reducing the harm related to extremist concerns.

Appendix A contains a prompt list to support practitioners to identify more specific extremist views and behaviours.

You can access information on proscribed terrorist groups or organisations that are banned under UK law from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/extremism).

You can access government advice on international travel from [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

## PART ONE – RISK INDICATORS

### HIGH RISK INDICATORS

High Risk Indicators	Tick
Plans to travel to a conflict zone; or unexplained and/or sudden plans to travel to a country from which you can travel to a conflict zone	
Demonstrates support for and/or is articulating extreme views that are of significant harm to themselves or others, and may refuse to acknowledge other viewpoints	
Is living with someone who has a conviction against the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – known as TACT Offences	
Is in contact with, is being influenced by, and/or shows support for individuals, groups, or organisations that are known to hold harmful extreme views and/or undertake harmful acts based on those views; this includes family members	
Participation in an activity that might cause immediate harm to themselves or others based on them holding extreme views, e.g. a violent attack against others	
Has disengaged from wider activities and interests and become fixated with a particular issue, viewpoint or way of living that is unhealthy and harmful to the CYP, and/or others	
Is accessing and/or sharing material of an extremist nature that is of significant harm to themselves and/or others e.g. that contains violent or disturbing images; that encourages people to undertake violent acts, etc.	
Is spending time with unknown individuals that raises concern, including potential religious or sexual grooming	

### HIGH RISK SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –

Please summarise what evidence you have regarding the high risks indicators you have ticked above. This section must be completed if you have indicated a risk/s above.

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## MEDIUM RISK INDICATORS

Medium Risk Indicators	Tick
Demonstrates support for and/or is articulating extreme views that are/may be of harm to themselves or others, and finds it difficult to acknowledge other viewpoints	
Is showing interest in, and may have contact with individuals, groups, or organisations that are known to hold harmful extreme views and/or undertake harmful acts based on those views; this includes family members	
Is starting to disengage with wider activities and interests and spending more time focusing on a particular issue, viewpoint or way of living that may be unhealthy and harmful to the CYP or others	
Is isolated from family, friends, peer and peer groups and/or is not forthcoming about how and who they spend their spare time with	
Is accessing and/or sharing material of an extremist nature that is harmful to themselves and/or others e.g. that encourages people to develop harmful views about others that encourages people to isolate themselves and narrow their viewpoints, etc.	
Has mental health concerns or developmental disorders (e.g. ASD) that make the CYP vulnerable to developing extreme views that are harmful to themselves or others	
Has alcohol and/or substance abuse issues that makes the CYP vulnerable to developing extreme views that are harmful to themselves or others	
Is at risk from harmful cultural practices. Please state the type of risk e.g. FGM, Forced Marriage, removal from education, honour based violence, abuse linked to faith or belief, etc.	

## MEDIUM RISKSUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –

**Please summarise what evidence you have regarding the medium risk indicators you have ticked above. This section must be completed if you have indicated a risk/s above.**

## LOW RISK INDICATORS

Low Risk Indicators	Tick
Is struggling with their own identity, sense of belonging and/or may feel out of place in wider society	
A change in CYP's views, appearance, behaviour and wellbeing that starts to raise concern	
Is easily lead by others making them susceptible to influence	
Is becoming isolated from family, friends, peer and peer groups	

## LOW RISKSUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –

Please summarise what evidence you have regarding the low risk indicators you have ticked above. This section must be completed if you have indicated a risk/s above.

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## PART TWO – ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. Has the CYP experienced any significant life events or trauma that may be linked to the current risks?

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2. Is there any additional information you would like to provide which is not covered by the risk indicators that you think indicates an extremism concern?

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## OVERALL RISK RATING

Please indicate the overall level of risk you believe is present in this case in terms of the extremism and wider concerns identified:

High  
Medium  
Low

Please briefly summarise why you feel the risks in this case are high, medium or low:

**NOTE:**

Referrers should be aware that working with extremism concerns is a developing area of practice in social work. As such the above indicators may change as more is understood about risks of extremism and how to work with CYP on these issues.

**[End of screening tool]**

## **Birmingham Children's Social Services – Prevent Duty Extremism Assessment Guidance**

The aim of this guidance is to provide children's practitioners with an explorative set of questions to assess the nature of extremism concerns being presented by a child or young person (CYP) and their family.

There is not a separate assessment form to complete for cases with extremism concerns. Practitioners are asked to consider the questions below to help them explore and articulate the extremist concerns in the case. Practitioners' responses to these questions should be included in the assessment tool being used be that the Early Help Assessment or the Family Assessment. This should draw on the Signs of Safety methodology focusing on: concerns, strengths and what needs to happen.

Practitioners should include the information they have gathered from answering the enclosed extremism questions in whatever section of the Early Help or Family Assessment they feel is most appropriate. For example information concerning a family member's own extremist views may be included in sections on family background.

Appendix A contains a prompt list to support practitioners to identify more specific extremist views and behaviours.

You can access information on proscribed terrorist groups or organisations that are banned under UK law from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/terrorism-and-extremism).

You can access government advice on international travel from [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

If you need help to understand the nature of the extremism risk presented or the level of risk posed contact:

Colvin White, Early Help - Prevent Lead, 0121 303 9905 / 07920 088 512,  
[colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk)

Maria Jardine, Head of Service – Early Help and Family Support, Operational Lead for Extremism, 077680 25323; [maria.jardine@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:maria.jardine@birmingham.gov.uk)

**If you are the lead family support or social worker for a case with extremist concerns you should contact the Early Help and CSC Channel Link Representatives above as soon as you are allocated the case to discuss whether it needs to be referred to Channel.**

## **Assessment Questions**

### **1. Relationships and Networks**

Practitioners should consider the CYP's family, friends and other individuals they have contact with, and any extremism risks they might pose:

How wide is the CYP's network of friends and family? Does the CYP have contact with a limited or a variety of views and actions/behaviours? If they are limited, what are the potential reasons why they are limited? Does it seem to be impacting negatively on the CYP and how?

Does the CYP have a strong network of friends and family who will protect them from potential harm caused by extremist views or actions/behaviours? Does the CYP and their family have contact a range of services, organisations or groups that meet any needs they have? Is the family isolated? Is the family willing to engage with services?

Is the CYP isolated from family and peers? Have they experienced rejection? Do they have insecure and/or conflicted relationships?

Do the CYP's carers, family, friends or people they are connected with, demonstrate extremist views and/or actions/behaviours that might be harmful to the CYP?

Do the CYP's carers, family, friends or other people they have contact with, have convictions under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – known as TACT Offences? What is the nature of these? Do they indicate the individual/s may pose harm to the CYP? How much contact does the CYP have with them and how influential are they?

Is the CYP linked with individuals, groups or organisations that are known to hold harmful views and/or demonstrate harmful actions/behaviours? What is the nature of the CYP's contact with them? Does this pose harm to them and others?

### **2. Views and Behaviour**

Practitioners should consider the CYP's views and behaviour, and any indications of harm arising from these:

Is the CYP causing them or others harm by articulating extreme views and/or by demonstrating actions/behaviours based on those views? What are they and what is the impact? Does the CYP understand the harm that could be caused?

Have the CYP and/or family travelled to or have plans to travel to a conflict zone, or have unexplained or sudden plans to travel to a country from which you can travel to a conflict zone?

Is the CYP particularly closed in their views? How have they developed their views? Do the CYP's views reflect normal developmental processes we would expect to see in CYP of their age?

Is the CYP receiving a balanced education, providing insights into different viewpoints, religions, faiths and cultures?

Is the CYP accessing material (pictures, videos, text, etc.) that may be harmful to them and/or others around them? Is it age appropriate? How are they accessing it? Do they have unsupervised internet access? Why is the CYP accessing the material? Do they understand the harm it could cause?

Do the CYP's views and/or actions/behaviours represent understandable reactions to the CYP's experiences, or the experiences of those around them? Has the CYP experienced inequality, deprivation, conflict, discrimination, harm or other issues, leading to a grievance that may lead them to cause harm to them or others?

Is the CYP struggling to understand their position or identity in society? Is this leading to isolation? Is it making them vulnerable to harmful viewpoints, groups or individuals that might offer them an identity?

Does the CYP have a history of crime? Does it make them vulnerable to extremist concerns?

### **3. Wellbeing - Mental Health and Substance Misuse**

Practitioners should consider the CYP's overall wellbeing and whether they have any vulnerabilities making them more open to risk from extremism concerns:

Does the CYP have mental health issues, development disorders, and/or are they using substances and/or alcohol? Is this making them vulnerable to extremist views and/or actions/behaviours? For example, does it make them vulnerable to:

- Developing and articulating harmful views or undertaking harmful actions/behaviours?
- Becoming unhealthily fixated with particular issues? For example, spending a lot of time alone researching this issue and connecting with individuals/groups via the internet.
- Spending time with people who hold views or demonstrate actions/behaviours that might be harmful to the CYP, and who may seek to influence the CYP in a way that is harmful to them and others?

Is the CYP aware of their mental health, or development issues, and how this may make them vulnerable to harmful views or actions/behaviours? Is the CYP aware of the impact of substance and/or alcohol use and how this may make them vulnerable to harmful views or actions/behaviours?

Has the CYP changed recently and/or suddenly? What was the trigger? Have they experienced a trauma now or in the past that might explain a change in their views and/or actions/behaviours?

How open is the CYP about their life and their interests? Who do they spend time with? What do they do with their spare time? Are there any indications of 'grooming', such as new possessions that cannot have been obtained by the CYP independently? Do they seem 'themselves' to those around them?

Is there any evidence of forced marriage, FGM, trafficking, removal from education, honour based violence, or abuse linked to faith or belief?

### **4. History of Extremism Concerns**

Have there been previous 'extremism' concerns in relation to this CYP and/or their family?

What were the concerns? Have these changed? What support was provided? How effective was this? How well did the CYP and family engage? When and why did the support finish?



**NOTE:**

Practitioners should be aware that working with extremism concerns is a developing area of practice in social work. As such the above questions may change as more is understood about the risks of extremism and how to work with CYP on these issues.

**[End of assessment questions]**

## Prevent Duty

### Extremism Concerns – Right Service Right Time

To support children's practitioners in establishing the level of risk related to extremist concerns, some of the key indicators of extremism have been mapped against the Right Service Right Time framework below. This is a guide only, but may be helpful for practitioners in thinking about the varying levels of risk involved when extremism risks are present.

Universal	Universal Plus	Additional	Complex and Significant
CYP demonstrates an interest in multiple viewpoints	CYP is showing an <b>interest</b> in extreme <b>views that may cause them harm</b> and is becoming less engaged in wider views and interests	<b>CYP</b> demonstrates extreme <b>views that are causing</b> harm to themselves or others, and refuses to acknowledge other viewpoints	<b>CYP</b> demonstrates extreme <b>views that are causing significant harm</b> to themselves or others
CYP is involved in a range of activities	CYP is showing an <b>interest</b> in extreme <b>actions or behaviour that may cause them harm</b> and is reducing involvement in wider activities	CYP demonstrates extreme <b>actions or behaviour that is causing</b> harm to themselves or others	CYP demonstrates extreme <b>actions or behaviour that are causing significant harm</b> to themselves or others
CYP's carers, family and close contacts have and encourage the CYP to have a healthy interest in a range of views and behaviours	There are <b>indications</b> the CYP's <b>carer/s, family or close contacts</b> hold <b>extreme views</b> and/or <b>actions/behaviours that may cause harm</b> to the CYP	The CYP's <b>carer/s, family or close contacts</b> are demonstrating extreme <b>views</b> and/or <b>actions/behaviours that is causing harm</b> to the CYP	The CYP's <b>carer/s, family or close contacts</b> are demonstrating extreme <b>views</b> and/or <b>actions/behaviours that are causing significant harm</b> to the CYP
CYP has a healthy interest in a range of views and behaviours	CYP has a healthy interest in a range of views and behaviours	The <b>CYP</b> is showing <b>interest or is in contact</b> with <b>people</b> demonstrating <b>extreme views</b> and/or <b>actions/behaviours that is causing harm</b> to the CYP	The <b>CYP</b> has close <b>relationships</b> with <b>people</b> demonstrating <b>extreme views</b> and/or <b>actions/behaviours that are causing significant harm</b> to the CYP

## Family Group Conferences

Birmingham CSC has a Family Group Conferencing (FGC) Service who can offer this approach to families, giving them the opportunity to identify their own solutions to concerns that have been identified. FGCs aim to empower families and to draw on the strengths of immediate and wider family members and friends to support the CYPs and the wider family's needs.

The method includes preparation meetings with family members and practitioners and planning for a FGC. The FGC is held in 3 parts:

1. The FGC brings together the CYP, family network and involved practitioners. The initial part of the meeting involves the family, the allocated worker and, any other professionals that the family choose to invite during which the issues identified in the assessment are presented and discussed. The family are encouraged to raise questions during this session and to clarify what the worker is worried about in respect of the child/ren.
2. The family then have private family time to consider the issues identified and to develop a plan that addresses the support needs of the CYP and the family.
3. The family and practitioners come back together to discuss the family's plan, and if it addresses the concerns raised by the professionals, the plan is agreed.

If you think a case allocated to you involving extremist concerns has the potential to benefit from an FGC approach please contact the service manager:

Lisa Gunstone, FGC Manager, [lisa.gunstone@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.gunstone@birmingham.gov.uk), 07980 672413

## Working with Children and Families

To support CYP and their families effectively we need to fully understand the concerns from their perspectives and their life experiences. The tools in this guidance are designed to complement the **Signs of Safety approach** in the Request For Support Form, supporting practitioners to answer questions about what is going well, concerns and what needs to happen next.

**The three houses** exercise will also support children's practitioners to more fully understand and appreciate the CYP's perspective.

Signs of Safety resources can be accessed at: [www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/early-help/signs-of-safety-and-wellbeing/toolkit](http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/early-help/signs-of-safety-and-wellbeing/toolkit)

## Support and Services for Extremism concerns

### Channel Support

Channel is a multi-agency partnership helping to safeguard individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation, regardless of faith, ethnicity or background. This is similar to the way in which individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs and other social issues are supported. By providing support to those most at risk, they can be diverted away from potential threats that might draw them into criminal activity.

Channel has access to a variety of support packages and interventions appropriate in working with risks of extremism that include:

- Mentoring support providing personal guidance including addressing extremist ideologies, religious interpretations
- Developing life and social skills, for example dealing with peer pressure
- Anger management sessions
- Cognitive behavioural therapy to support attitudes and behaviours
- Constructive leisure activities
- Education and training activities
- Careers focused activities
- Family support including relationships and skills work
- Support with physical and/or mental health
- Housing support
- Drug and alcohol support

The above list is not exhaustive, and a combination of the above alongside other support may often be required.

Providers of support can include statutory and community partners. The Channel multi-agency panel is responsible for ensuring delivery of the overall package of support for Channel cases.

For more information on how to access support via Channel contact:

Waqar Ahmed – Prevent Manager, 0121 3037682 / 07557 203290

[waqar.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:waqar.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk).

### Community Support

There is a **Community Safeguarding Panel in Birmingham** made up of community organisations the Council has experience of working with and who can provide support in cases where there are extremist concerns. This includes specialist mentoring support for children and young people on views and beliefs, as well as other issues such as diversionary activities and domestic abuse. To find out more and to request support from the Panel please contact:

Colvin White, Early Help - Prevent Lead, 0121 3039905 / 07920 088512

[colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:colvin.white@Birmingham.gov.uk)

There are a number of other community organisations that also provide support. Community or non-statutory partners providing support to vulnerable people need to be credible and understand the local community.

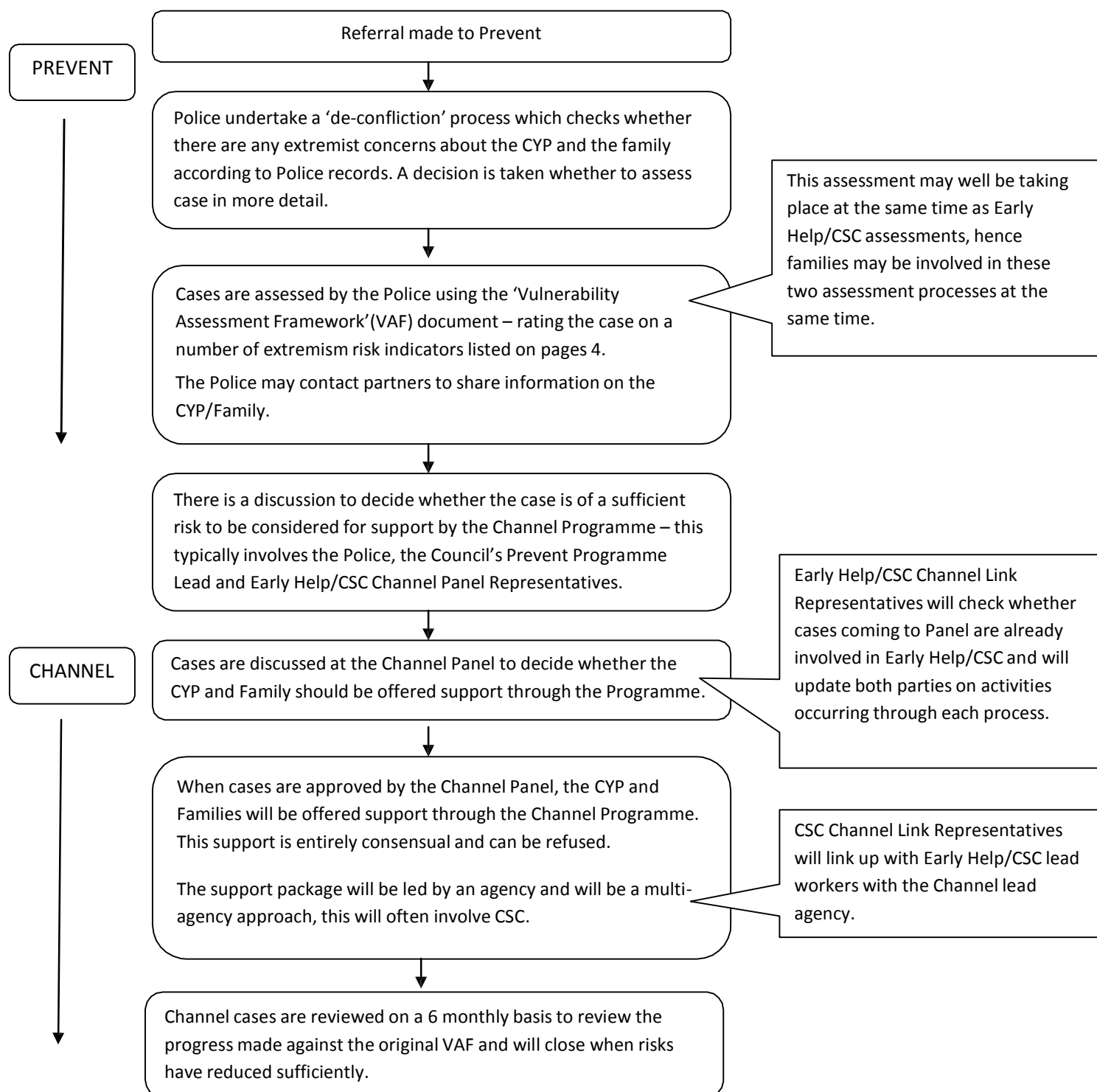
Practitioners should make the necessary checks to be assured of the suitability of support providers; including DBS checks for those seeking to work with young people and vulnerable adults.

### **Support for Schools**

If you are working with a school that needs help to develop their curriculum activities to address Prevent and extremism concerns contact:

Razia Butt, Resilience Officer, 0121 464 7739 / 07956878288  
[razia.butt@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:razia.butt@birmingham.gov.uk)

## Prevent Referrals and the Channel Pathway



## Appendix A: Prevent Duty Extremism Screening and Assessment Prompt Sheet

**Purpose:** This is an additional tool to be used by referring agencies, Family Support workers and Social Workers to support practitioners to think around and fully articulate the nature of extremism issues involved with CYP and their families.

Relationships and networks	Views and Behaviours	Wellbeing
<p><b>Disengaged</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence from school or NEET, home schooling</li> <li>Dysfunctional family</li> <li>Isolated from family and/or social life/friends</li> <li>Only spends time with new contacts or friends and rejects others</li> <li>Hides new lifestyle, allegiance and/or beliefs from family and friends</li> </ul> <p><b>Family</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family history of child protection issues</li> <li>History of family members holding extreme views, undertaking violence acts based on extreme views and/or arrests under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact with extremist influences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In contact with groups/networks known to be violent extremists online or physical contact</li> <li>Has contact with people who have travelled to conflict zones</li> <li>Has contact with family, friends, gangs or</li> </ul>	<p><b>Actions and violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desire and/or plans to travel to conflict zones</li> <li>Plans and/or commits violent or hateful acts inspired by an ideology or extremist cause</li> <li>Takes part in extremist activities</li> <li>Encourages others to support violent extremist causes</li> <li>Legitimises the use of violence to defend an ideology</li> <li>Insistently preaches religious and ideological ideas to others</li> <li>Refuses to take part in group activities or interact with individuals based on the latter's religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or other discriminatory factors</li> <li>Sudden changes in habits</li> <li>Displays symbols of affiliation or support associated with extremist groups</li> <li>Adopts physical signs to express new identity (e.g. clothes, haircut, tattoos)</li> <li>Unsupervised access to the internet;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unhealthy behaviours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drugs misuse</li> <li>Alcohol misuse</li> <li>Self-harming, eating disorders, suicide attempts</li> <li>Challenging behaviour, aggression</li> </ul> <p><b>Psychological state</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Lack of self-esteem</li> <li>Lack of belonging</li> <li>Expresses strong need for excitement or adventure</li> <li>Easily controlled or controlling of others</li> <li>Paranoia or extreme mistrust of others</li> <li>Drawn to conspiracy theories or discourse</li> <li>Becomes obsessed with end of the world or messianic views</li> <li>Grievance or sense of injustice and desire to correct these</li> <li>Lack of trust in authorities</li> <li>Sense of victimisation and rejection – being singled out</li> </ul>

Relationships and networks	Views and Behaviours	Wellbeing
<p>others who are linked to extremism Expresses support for extremist groups Contact with other vulnerable people</p> <p><b>Grooming</b></p> <p>Multiple unknown callers Accompanied to appointments with unknown adult that causes concern Evidence of grooming including unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items Has relationship with controlling individual which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse</p>	<p>Access to extremism material - online and/or physical</p> <p><b>Beliefs</b></p> <p>Converts or adopts new religious, ideological and/or political beliefs Expresses hatred for other groups Reinforces beliefs through regular use of violent extremist forums or sites Attends vulnerable locations where extremist views are influential Limited understanding of theological and/or political issues Expresses polarised views of the absolute truth Rejects rules and regulations of organisations based on ideological, political or religious beliefs Argues avidly to defend beliefs</p>	

[End of Prompt Sheet]