

1. Introduction

This policy is based on the Prevent duty, which is a duty placed on childcare agencies under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. It is important to remember that radicalisation can relate to any religion and/or political belief.

At Foster Care Link we regard preventing children from being drawn into terrorism as part of our statutory duty to protect children from harm. This policy should therefore be read in conjunction with all FCL Child Protection Policies.

2. Possible Indicators of Radicalisation

In a number of well publicised cases of alleged radicalisation, there were no reported signs from family, friends or school of behaviour by a young person, that would have caused concern prior to a particular incident. In some of those cases the people were described as friendly, sociable and well liked.

Equally children who are being radicalised, may display the same behaviours as children who are or have been emotionally, physically and/or sexually abused, e.g. being withdrawn, secretive, angry and/or distressed, extreme mood swings, etc. Other indicators may include a young person spending long periods accessing the internet, being a "loner" and/or spending periods out of the foster home without explaining where they are or who they are with. Again however these could be signs of sexual exploitation or gang involvement. It follows therefore that it is difficult to know whether a child/young person is being radicalised simply from their behaviour. Foster carers need to talk to their supervising social worker if they are concerned about a young person's behaviour and there should not be an automatic assumption that young people are being radicalised. There is a danger that someone can be labelled as being radicalised when their behaviour may relate to something completely different.

Foster carers should attempt to engage with young people, to ascertain their views and concerns about their beliefs and whether they feel disillusioned about the society in which they are living. Many young

people during adolescence can be rebellious and express “radical” views, which can just be a normal part of growing up, rather than anything more serious. It is important however to try to explore whether they are in contact either in person or via the internet, with people who may be trying to exploit the young person’s rebellious nature.

The following is taken from the Home Office guidance “**Channel: Vulnerability Assessment Framework**” October 2012 and provides some examples of potential indicators for assessing an individual’s vulnerability to be drawn into terrorism; this not an exhaustive list:

2.1 Engagement with a group, cause or ideology

- Feelings of grievance or injustice
- Feeling under threat
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging
- A desire for status
- A desire for excitement and adventure
- A need to dominate and control others
- Susceptibility to indoctrination
- A desire for political or moral change
- Opportunistic involvement
- Family or friends involvement in extremism
- Being at a transitional time of life
- Relevant mental health issues

2.2 Intent to cause harm

- Over-identification with a group or ideology
- ‘Them and Us’ thinking
- Dehumanisation of ‘the enemy’
- Attitudes that justify offending
- Harmful means to an end
- Harmful objectives

2.3 Capability to cause harm

- Individual knowledge, skills and competencies
- Access to networks, funding or equipment
- Criminal Capability

3. Risk Assessments

It is important to make sure that people involved with the child/young person do not make assumptions that the child or young person's commitment to their religion or politics means they are being radicalised. Foster carers should always observe the behaviours of children in their care and report any concerns to their supervising social worker. It is essential for all vulnerable children and young people that the FCL formal written risk assessment is carried out on placement and that this is regularly updated.

The Placement Risk Assessment Form considers the full range of potential risks, including the possibility of radicalisation. It is important that risks are assessed as far as possible on real facts, known history and evidence, rather than hearsay or being influenced by current emotive public or media views. It is important when receiving information from a local authority that there is clarity about what is fact and what is opinion.

Risk assessments must always be clear about what action if any is required, who will instigate that action and timescales. Actions should always look at providing positive support/help, rather than punitive action, unless there is clear evidence that the child/young person poses a significant risk to themselves and/or others.

4. Next steps

If after consultation with all parties (foster carers, child social worker, supervising social worker, registered manager) it is felt that a foster child is at real risk of radicalisation, a referral must be made to Channel, which is the Government partner for dealing with such potential cases.

The Child's Social Worker will be the lead person making the referral. Channel will first screen referrals and will then make a full assessment of the potential risk. Based on the assessment they may develop a support plan for the young person working with a Multi-Agency Panel. This support will be designed to de-radicalise the child/young person.

The role of the team at Foster Care Link (foster carers and staff) is to support this process as best as possible and to monitor and record as appropriate. Please see the diagram below for the Channel mechanism.

Diagram of 'Channel' Mechanism of Assessment and Support

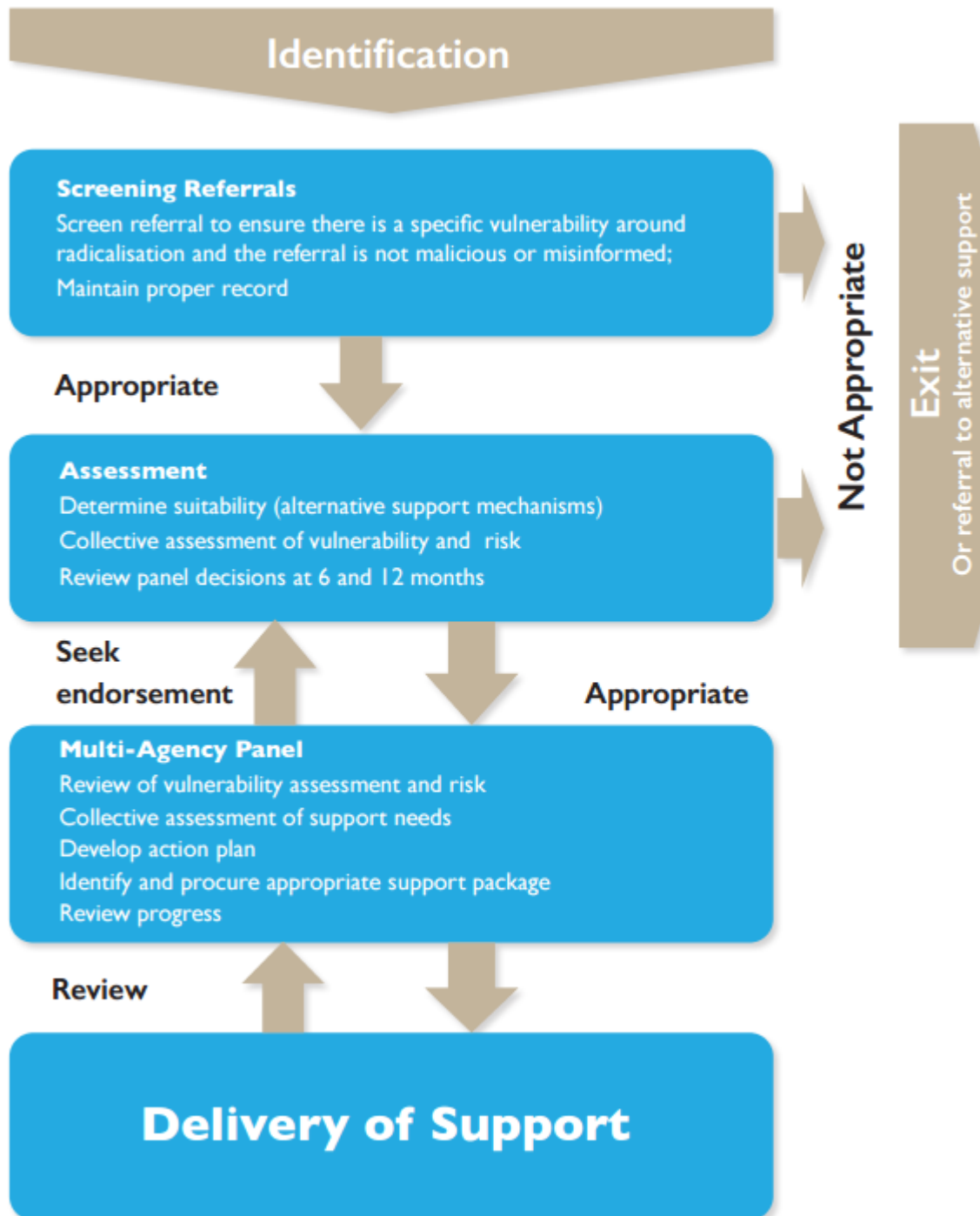


Diagram from Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting Vulnerable People from Being Drawn into Terrorism (HM Government 2015). Full document: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf

Appendix 1

Child/Young Person Placement Risk Assessment

Child/Young Person's Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Name of carer(s):	
Placement address	
Name of Social Worker:	
Contact Details:	
Placing Authority:	

Risks	Type of risk		
	Low	Medium	High
2. Risk of harm to child from family members.			
2. Risk of harm to child from others.			
3. Risk of aggressive behaviour			
4. Risk of abduction			
5. Risk of going missing (whereabouts unknown)			
6. Risk of unauthorised absence (Whereabouts are likely to be known or the child has history			

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voluntarily returning after a period of absence)			
5. Risk of sexual exploitation or abuse			
6. Risk of offending			
7. Risk of self harm			
8. Risk of suicide			
9. Risk of bullying (including cyberbullying)			
10. Risk of alcohol abuse			
11. Risk of drug abuse			
14. Risk of causing serious damage to property.			
15. Risk of Radicalisation			
16 . Risk of FGM			
17. Other risk? Please specify			

Health: Physical symptoms such as bruising, chronic fatigue, recurring or multiple sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy or seeking a termination of pregnancy, evidence of drug, alcohol or substance abuse, sexually risky behaviour.

YES	NO
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Education: Truancy, deterioration of school work, disengagement with education.

YES	NO
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Emotional and Behavioural Development: Volatile behaviour, extreme array of mood swings, aggressive language, sexualised language, sexually inappropriate behaviour, secretive behaviour, petty crime.

YES	NO
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Identity: Low self esteem and image, self-harm, eating disorder, promiscuity, entering or leaving vehicles driven by an unknown adult.

YES	NO
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Family and Social Relationships: hostility/physical aggression towards parents, family members, foster carers, teachers or other children, uninvolved in age appropriate activities, sexual/unexplained relationships with older adults, returning late or staying out over night with no plausible explanation, going missing, returning after having been missing and appearing well cared for with no known 'home' base, i.e. have not been staying with friends or family, going missing and being found in an area where the child has no known links. Seen in areas known to be used for sexual exploitation; associating with other young people who are known to be at risk of exploitation or radicalisation.

YES	NO
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Social Presentation: Change in appearance, going out in clothing that is inappropriate for their age, wearing an unusual amount of clothing when going out, changing to or wearing clothes or symbols associated with an extremist cause.

YES	NO
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Parental Capacity: Family history of parental abuse or neglect, loss of parent through divorce or death.

YES	NO
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	Yes/No
Where risks are identified as Medium or High have the Foster Carers been informed of these risks and the reasons for them?	
Have the Foster Carers been informed of who they should contact in the event of any risk occurring or likely to occur?	
Have foster carers been made aware that they must record any events relating to identified risks and to advise FCL of any changes that need to be made to this risk assessment?	

If the answer to any of the above questions is No, please explain why and what action is being taken to rectify this.

Name and role of person completing this assessment:	
Date of completion:	