Radicalisation and extremism

What is radicalisation and extremism?

According to the government (Home Office, 2015b):

* **Radicalisation** is 'the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism'.

* **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, including calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

At this stage, there is limited research around radicalisation, although more and more information is being gathered. There has been a recent shift in focus and concerns towards ISIS or the so-called Islamic State.

The role of social media has presented new challenges in the radicalisation of children.

> *"Radicalisation can pose a significant threat to the well-being and safety of children, frequently involving:*
> * *exposure to upsetting images and material*
> * *isolation from friends and family*
> * *psychological manipulation*
> * *sexual exploitation*
> * *risk of personal physical harm or death"*

When do concerns arise?

Holding radical views is not in itself a crime nor a safeguarding concern. Discovering the world and forming opinions is key to children's development. Many children may develop views that may be deemed radical, such as animal rights, pro-life, environmental.

Concerns for children and young people arise when the means to engage children and young people with extremist agendas uses abusive approaches with negative outcomes for them; or when extremist views are used as a justification for violent acts that cause harm to a child.

The internet can be a key vehicle for the radicalisation of children and young people.

Radical groups have been known to use a variety of social media channels to share propaganda, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, AskFM, Instagram, Tumblr.

Keeping Children Safe Online

NSPCC

CEOP
A National
Crime Agency
command