

## Guidance on Radicalisation and Extremism

### What is the Prevent Duty?

Section 21 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on FE colleges to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

### What is extremism?

The government has defined 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.”* This also includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces.

### Who are the extremists commonly presented in British media?

The UK public is often exposed through the media to two extreme groups who actively pose a threat to UK citizens:

- Extreme Islamist Based Groups
- Far Right based groups
- Animal Activist Groups

### What are British Values?

British Values are described as **“democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.”** Institutions are expected to encourage students to respect other people with particular regard to protected characteristics. These include: Age, sex, race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion, partnership status, pregnancy and maternity.

### What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of encouraging extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

### Why does extremism occur?

Extremism occurs for a variety of reasons; these may include:

- Perceptions of western policy as being belligerent
- Counter terrorism may create feelings of being under threat
- Where young people are isolated from their community
- Easy to access extremist views and materials
- Religious beliefs that support the use of violence
- Young person’s desire for excitement, danger or meaning
- Drawn to promises of `a better life` ISIS have an estimated wealth of 2 billion dollars.
- Need to belong – many radicalised young people have weak attachments to their parents or carers.

### How can you help and what can you do?

- **Be aware and be vigilant.** If you overhear conversations that seem inappropriate and potentially divisive ask about what students (or staff) are discussing. If the topic of conversation causes consternation obtain student/staff names and pass on relevant information to Head of Student Services
- **Report any suspicions immediately to Head of Student Services.** Whether this is **conversations you have heard**, students or staff **changing their names**, students being **missing for long periods of time**, **changes in dress** or **inappropriate websites** that you may see a student accessing.
- **Educate:** Both staff and students to be informed through professional development opportunities and tutorial programmes around British Values and the Prevent Agenda
- **Promote inclusion** – value and promote a sense of **belonging and kindness** amongst students
- Be a diversity champion – **challenge discrimination**.
- In conversation don't immediately shut down extremist views – instead **encourage debate** and **offer alternative view points**.

### What to do if you suspect radicalisation or extremism?

- Treat radicalisation and extremism as you would any other safeguarding concern.
- Contact the Safeguarding Team and Head of Student Services
- [michelle.lagden@seevic-college.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.lagden@seevic-college.ac.uk) or 01268 756 111 (extension 110)