Extremism and Radicalisation

Early Years
Zainab is three; she is always polite and well behaved. She gets on well with the other children and is always friendly with staff. Her mum always brings her into the setting; she is friendly but has very little English and relies on Zainab’s five year old brother to translate messages for her.

Today her Key Worker comments on how quiet she is and that, uncharacteristically, she does not want to join in any activities and has sat curled up on one of the large cushions. On checking how she is Zainab says that she doesn’t like the video. On saying “Tell me what you mean by that” she says “I don’t like Fatimah’s video when the bad man gets the big knife and the man’s head falls off”. She then starts to cry and does not say any more. Fatimah is Zainab’s fifteen year old sister.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?

This may be a situation in which Fatima has seen an inappropriate video or has misinterpreted what she has seen; however we must remember to “think the unthinkable”.

Do not discuss these concerns with the parents at this stage as this could be a sign of Fatimah being radicalised. Consult with ChECS and contact the Prevent Team.

The Prevent Team will carry out appropriate background checks and will advise on next steps.

Cheshire East Consultation Service on 0300 123 5012

Prevent Cheshire 01606 362147

All staff should be aware of extremism and radicalisation; there should be a reference to it in the school safeguarding policy.

All staff should have completed training on Prevent:
Zainab is eight; she is always polite and well behaved. She gets on well with the other children and is always friendly with staff. Her mum always drops her off and picks her up; mum is friendly but has very little English and relies on Zainab to translate messages for her. Today Zainab is quiet and, uncharacteristically, does not put much effort into her work. After lunch one of the Midday Assistants says that she is concerned with something Zainab has said. Zainab was sitting alone in a corner of the playground and, on checking how she was, Zainab had said she doesn’t want to watch anymore of the videos. On asking her “Tell me what you mean by that” Zainab says “I don’t like having to watch Fatimah’s videos. I don’t like the blood….the man’s head….he chopped it off; it fell on the floor” She then bursts into tears and does not say any more. Fatimah is Zainab’s fifteen year old sister.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?

This may be a situation in which Fatima has seen an inappropriate video or has misinterpreted what she has seen; however we must remember to “think the unthinkable”.

Do not discuss these concerns with the parents at this stage as this could be a sign of Fatimah being radicalised. Consult with ChECS and contact the Prevent Team. The Prevent Team will carry out appropriate background checks and will advise on next steps.

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Tom is sixteen; he is a student who, until recently, has never stood out for any reason; he is not a high achiever but puts in effort, his attendance is good. He tends to keep himself to himself but will sometimes play football at breaks with other students. His mum has been to some parent’s evenings but no-one has seen his step dad in school.

During a recent PSHE day Tom was in a group which had a talk on forced marriage. Following the session the guest speaker went to a member of staff and said that a boy had made derogatory remarks about her ethnicity. On being asked to describe the boy she pointed out Tom who was standing in the corridor. Tom was spoken to about the inappropriateness of his behaviour but he denied it.

Today a student shows you a photo of Tom which the student says Tom has posted on line. The photo shows Tom smiling to the camera and showing off a tattoo, of a Celtic Cross and “WP” written underneath it, on his arm. You see Tom later and he has a bandage on his arm and tells you he cut his arm on a door at home by accident.

When you mention this in the staff room another teacher says that they had to speak to Tom a few weeks ago as he was caught writing a racist message on the toilet wall.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions should be taken in the longer term?
- What are the missed opportunities here?

Remember to “think the unthinkable”.

Do not discuss these concerns with the parents at this stage as this could be a sign of Tom being radicalised. Consult with ChECS and contact the Prevent Team. The Prevent Team will carry out appropriate background checks and will advise on next steps.
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All staff should have completed training on Prevent:

Home Office Prevent E-Learning