



Anti- Radicalisation and Extremism Policy

SAFEGUARDING LEARNERS WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO EXTREMISM

Since 2010, when the Government published the [Prevent Strategy](#), there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children, young people and adults to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

My Life Legacy values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both learner and tutors have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make young people and adults vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. My Life Legacy is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are in Appendix 1.

My Life Legacy seeks to protect learners and staff against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Risk reduction

The safeguarding lead will assess the level of risk within the centre and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the shared use of premises by external agencies, integration of learners by gender and age, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the company profile and philosophy. The risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the Safeguarding Policy on an annual basis.

Response

Our company, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism - this will normally be the Designated Safeguarding Lead. **See Appendix 2 for further details.**



NOTE: For information on the appointed SPOC and Safeguarding Lead for My Life Legacy, refer to “002. All Current Roles and Positions”

When any member of staff has concerns that a learner may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC and to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if this is not the same person.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason, the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

WHAT WE DO WHEN WE ARE CONCERNED

Where risk factors are present but there is no evidence of a particular risk then our DSL /SPOC advises the tutor on preventative work that can be done within centre to engage the learner into mainstream activities and social groups. The DSL may well be the person who talks to and has conversations with the learner’s family or referral agency, sharing the concern about the person’s vulnerability and how they can work together to reduce the risk.

In this situation, depending on the measure of concern, the DSL/SPOC can decide to notify the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) of the decision so that a strategic overview can be maintained, and any themes or common factors can be recognised. My Life Legacy will review the situation after taking appropriate action to address the concerns.

This includes concerns about a person who is affected by the behaviour of another adult in their household



APPENDIX 1

INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Learners may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that My Life Legacy staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
 - Identity Crisis – the learner is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 - Personal Crisis – the learner may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
 - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the learner’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
 - Unmet Aspirations – the learner may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
 - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;



- Special Educational Need – learners may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all vulnerable people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.
8. More critical risk factors could include:
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
 - Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
 - Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
 - Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
 - Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
 - Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
 - Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour
 - Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.



APPENDIX 2

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The SPOC for My Life Legacy can be found in “**002. All Current Roles and Positions**”, who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of My Life Legacy are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting learners from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing learners from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of My Life Legacy in relation to protecting learners from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the company curriculum and courses to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the organisation about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting learners from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within My Life Legacy for case discussions relating to learners who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable adults into the Channel process;
- Attending Channel* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
-
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel* Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

- * Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to
- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
 - Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
 - Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.