

# Safe From...Extremism

## Executive summary

1. Young people, across Achieving for Children(AfC) reported hearing of the following terms:

	Richmond Male	Richmond Female	Kingston Male	Kingston Female
<b>Extremism</b>	85%	95%	74%	82%
<b>Radicalisation</b>	75%	69%	62%	59%
<b>Terrorism</b>	83%	97%	97%	96%

2. Young people reported that they had heard of the terms and showed some understanding that radicalisation was a process and pathway to extremism, although slightly fewer reported actually hearing that term. They were keen and happy to share their definitions and understanding of the terms. The peer researchers felt that most young people were lacking a full understanding of the three terms.
3. Asked how these terms made them feel, young people shared a range of feelings across Kingston and Richmond: 21% of Richmond males and 28% of Richmond females said they were scared, compared to 31% males in Kingston and 29% females in Kingston.  
  
They also felt sad: 21% of males and 22% of females from Richmond and 14% of males and 28% of females from Kingston. A further 18% of males and 12% of females from Kingston expressed anger, whilst 9% of males and 19% of females from Richmond said it made them feel angry.
4. ISIS was the most commonly identified type of extremism: 33% of Richmond males and 56% of Richmond females. This was matched in Kingston with 47% of males and 57% of females. There were several references to right wing groups the KKK being the most common with 18% of Richmond males, 22% of Richmond females whilst 11% of Kingston males and 6% of Kingston females. 16% of Kingston males and 25% of Kingston females mentioned political and religious extremism. Kingston students felt that Donald Trump (and his supporters) was also a type of extremism with 22% males and 21% females
5. Few young people had heard of Prevent: 67% of Richmond males and 75% of Richmond females saying no they had not heard of it (9% and 8% respectively said yes). Awareness was slightly better in Kingston with 15% of males and 26% of females having heard of it. Forty seven per cent of males and 57% of females said they had not heard of it.

- All the young respondents felt that young people were vulnerable through being easy to manipulate, susceptible to social media, feeling isolated and not part of something where they belonged and contributed.
- They felt a programme of activities, support and education could best be delivered through:

	Richmond Male	Richmond Female	Kingston Male	Kingston Female
<b>Workshops</b>	36%	56%	74%	53%
<b>Partnerships with the police etc</b>	27%	27%	74%	22%
<b>Social media</b>	60%	42%	74%	44%
<b>PHSE</b>	21%	39%	39%	35%
<b>Projects</b>	40%	22%	15%	22%
<b>Whole school day</b>	27%	22%	34%	40%

- There was a strong sense that Kingston and Richmond were not offering enough information to young people about the subject and accessing support and advice. Sixty seven per cent of Richmond males and 61% of Richmond females felt it was not well publicised; in Kingston 59% of males and 54% of females the same.
- If they had to tell someone, as they were unsure how to access AfC support services about it, they said they'd tell:

	Richmond Male	Richmond Female	Kingston Male	Kingston Female
<b>School or college</b>	18%	16%	36%	28%
<b>My parents</b>	12%	22%	39%	28%
<b>Their parents</b>		11%	8%	6%
<b>Police</b>	18%	11%	15%	10%
<b>Friends</b>		11%	9%	43%

- Asked if they wanted to be involved in helping Kingston and Richmond develop information for young people on this topic, 9% of Richmond males and 14% of Richmond females said yes. In Kingston 18% of males and 16% of females said yes.

11. Most of the interviews were conducted by students from Kingston and Richmond colleges with many young people stating they lived out-of-borough (although attending Richmond or Kingston college full time).

There was no real blame attached to young people (who may be tempted or fall prey to radicalisation) from any respondents. Rather, recognition of the vulnerable position children and young people can find themselves in. This could be about their level of maturity or confidence, the environment in which they are being brought up in and young people's use of social media.

Respondents were keen to show empathy and concern for their peers who may be particularly vulnerable to being targeted for radicalisation.

There was a clear lack of blame on the young people, rather a sense that they were being exploited through their vulnerabilities and dependencies (as children on adults).

Young people are aware and concerned about these issues. They want to be able to discuss and acknowledge them. They want to be empowered with knowledge and understanding in engaging environments where they can also express how they feel.

The respondents have been only too willing to share the range of emotions they feel about extremism and terrorism.

This project opens up the opportunity for moving forwards with young people from AfC services: towards better tolerance, understanding and belonging, rather than merely away from..... the fears (and realities)] behind extremism.

Young people have indicated their willingness to participate in a range of methods with the subject, perhaps reflecting a range of preferred learning styles. The opportunity for schools, colleges and AfC as a whole is to work with young people to design and implement a programme that incorporates a range of these methods

## Focus group outcomes, 27 April (12 participants and peer researchers)

### **“We need a clear vision of what we want to achieve, identify our goals and pursue them”**

All participants thought young people felt safe to discuss the topic but that they were not aware what would happen to a young person suspected of having extreme views - how does the prevent programme work?

Peer researchers and respondents reported feeling unaware and possibly suspicious of what action might be taken against young people.

Peer researchers felt that counselling and support was appropriate.

We shouldn't let the media dominate the narrative and be the only source of information around these issues for young people.

Social media poses particular risks for young people as it is unregulated and young people who may be isolated and vulnerable, are easy targets.

The 24 hour saturation coverage in all media in response to attacks, leads to young people feeling desensitised to events.

Some young people don't care about what's going on because of the saturation coverage. It doesn't give it the importance it deserves.

There was some concern about the stereotyping of young people or particular faiths in some of the comments from respondents.

There was a significantly lower percentage of people who knew what radicalisation was which is probably why they are so easily radicalised, because they don't really understand what is happening.

There was acknowledgement that having a radical view by itself was not necessarily a problem it was how you 'espoused' that view and what your intent was, how you act upon them and how you limit others rights.

PHSE offers a great opportunity for young people to learn more about these sensitive issues and citizenship should be used to form groups and create projects that address the issues.

### **How do these issues make you feel?**

Focus group participants: four sad, two vulnerable, three scared and six angry.

- Angry about the impact on us of their actions
- I don't think the government always acts in our best interests and some of their decisions make us less safe
- Some young people's feelings about this are running high, this in itself could make them vulnerable to radicalisation

## Designing and implementing a programme for young people across AfC

Young people that feel alone or different, need to be comforted and looked after.

It could be integrated into the curriculum: it is not too difficult to see how subjects like history, RE, PHSE, geography and English could include these topics.

Young people have mainly asked for it in school as it is most convenient and then should reach out to all.

There was definitely an ongoing role for young people to design and co-implement, monitor, review and evaluate the effectiveness of programmes. Perhaps a role for young people who have had extremist views in the past, but are now willing to raise awareness amongst young people. They could explain both the radicalisation and de-radicalisation process.

## Concerns or potential risks

- Lack of knowledge - ISIS is not the only terrorist group
- It's clear that people do not know enough
- I was concerned when a respondent said that they would not tell anyone if they had concerns about another young person's extreme views
- Some individuals, communities or faiths could feel victimised
- Stereotyping
- Involve groups that may feel targeted
- Young people need to know who they can go to other than the police
- Young people don't know the consequences of telling. They don't fully understand the Prevent strategy. They need to know what will happen 'to that young person'; to make informed choices given the level of empathic concern for these young people
- Young people need to know at help is there and it's not about getting into trouble. They need to be encouraged and supported
- Certain groups feeling victimised and it ? needs to be delivered well otherwise it could inspire not deter

## Towards creating something based on values and inclusion

- Create a community with greater knowledge, understanding and tolerance
- There is a fine line due to Muslims being (to be blunt) blamed for everything. So when we think of stopping or prevent as our agenda it may come off as targeting Muslims. I would rather focus on creating as well as preventing. Creating values, creating groups that show the true values of Islam (faith, peace and love) as well as other religions that have extremist views

- We are ultimately trying to prevent violence carted ? by extremism and terrorism but we are also trying to create an environment where young people understand and are comfortable with talking about these issues
- They need to know about local services and what each of these offer

### **How to deliver**

Peer to peer x 4

- More campaigns by the youth councils in partnership with schools, provide social groups where young people can go and talk about what they are experiencing
- Ongoing involvement as things change and you need to constantly update and review with the input of young people
- A better understanding of the topic so not just seen as ISIS or an issue about Islam
- Need to make sure that any programme is empowering; building young people's confidence and resilience. It needs to be age appropriate and not scare young people unduly

**“Young people delivering the programme to other young people would have a greater impact”**

## Recommendations

1. We want to invite Sadiq Khan and MOPAC reps to meet with us to discuss our work and recommendations to get their support, with the view of rolling out a similar programme across all London boroughs.
2. We want our local Prevent coordinators to work better and more effectively with schools, colleges and other sector experts to ensure all young people have a full understanding of exactly what the Prevent strategy is and what it is trying to achieve.
3. Young people need to know that they will not get into trouble and understand exactly what the process involves. We want to ensure there is an emphasis on support and counselling not punishment.
4. We want schools and PTAs to work together to improve the understanding for parents.
5. We want a youth-led, co-produced publicity campaign that shows the other side of the story. We could make and show short films and bulletins for social media that young people are involved with, that offer balance and more positive messages. Reassure and empower young people through the campaign and ensure all schools engage with this.
6. All (AfC) services need to be better at identifying vulnerable young people, offering them activities to engage and build their confidence and self-esteem, organise social events, tackle their sense of isolation and work towards a sense of belonging.
7. There needs to be at least one dedicated worker in each borough to engage with the young people and coordinate all of this work.
8. Youth clubs are well placed to identify and support young people who might be feeling isolated. Youth workers are good at comforting, reassuring and allaying fears of young people. Therefore the Youth Service should have a significant role in supporting vulnerable young people and co-producing projects with young people. The Youth Service should offer more active projects or campaigns (related to Prevent. This could feel like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or count towards a young person's award.
9. Schools and colleges need to ensure all their students have a full understanding of the three different terms (radicalisation, extremism and terrorism) through assemblies, follow up indepth discussions in PHSE and co-produced projects in citizenship.
10. There should be regular interactive workshops in schools and colleges addressing these issues, a social club at each college to reach out and include vulnerable young people, using fresher's week as a platform and tutor time for regular discussions. Youth workers should be involved showing the short films that have been co-produced with young people.
11. Use the school and college social media platforms for young people to post positive bulletins: get young people to organise this so they can be up-to-date like using geo-tagging.

12. Partner with existing programmes like the youth crime conference to address these issues.
13. The police need to have an ongoing role in this, but they should not be in uniform. They need to show they are part of the support network and not out to punish young people.
14. Recruit a well-known or public figure who can head up the media side of the campaign and programme, introducing the short films, for example, a 'you-tuber' which has been very effective in other campaigns.