

# City Gateway

## Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

<b>Reviewed by (name)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Next review needed</b>
Hannah Pilkington	09/12/19	09/12/20

**This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis**

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## 1. Introduction

The responsibility to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults from extremism and radicalisation sits within the wider safeguarding context of City Gateway (see Safeguarding Policy and Guidance). As local and national awareness of these risks have developed, so too has the work of local authorities and those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to safeguard against them. This policy sets out the commitment within City Gateway to protect those who use our services and promote an ethos of resilience, respect and empowerment.

### 1.1 Legislation and Government Guidance

This policy draws upon a number of government publications, including:

- [The Children Act 1989](#)
- [The Children Act 2004](#)
- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016](#)
- [Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools \(2014\);](#)
- [Ofsted School Inspection Handbook \(2015\);](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act \(2015\);](#)
- [The Prevent Duty – Departmental Advice for Schools and Childcare Providers \(2015\).](#)

## 2. Role of the Principal Safeguarding (PSO) Lead and Prevent Lead

The position of Principal Safeguarding Lead within City Gateway is held by Hannah Pilkington. The PSO works in line with the responsibilities outlined in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 and has overall responsibility for the safeguarding policies and processes within City Gateway, and ensuring that best practice is maintained across the organisation.

The Prevent Lead within City Gateway is Hannah Pilkington, the Principal Safeguarding Officer. The Prevent lead ensures that the policies and practices concerning extremism and radicalisation reflect current developments and updates as directed by the government, the local Prevent board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Prevent Lead supports the DSL across all departments in ensuring the training needs of staff and volunteers within City Gateway are sufficient to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its service users.

## 3. Risks associated with extremism and radicalisation

Exposure of children to extremist ideology can hinder their social development and educational attainment alongside posing a very real risk that they could support or partake in an act of violence.

A number of young girls and boys have been persuaded to leave the country against the wishes of their families, or without their knowledge, putting themselves in extreme danger in situations of which they have little prior understanding or appreciation and from which return will be extremely difficult.

### 3.1 Why might a young person be drawn towards extremist ideology?

It appears a decision by a young person to become involved in violent extremism:

- May begin with a search for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- May be driven by the desire for 'adventure' and excitement;
- May be driven by a desire to enhance the self-esteem of the individual and promote their 'street cred';
- Is likely to involve identification with a charismatic individual and attraction to a group which can offer identity, social network and support;
- Is likely to be fuelled by a sense of grievance that can be triggered by personal experiences of racism or discrimination.

#### **4. Curriculum Development and Engagement**

As part of the national and local Prevent strategy, City Gateway is committed to developing individuals and communities with values that aim to minimise the prevalence, attraction and effectiveness of any extremist agendas. We want to develop tolerant, respectful, secure members of society who have the resilience and democratic skills to value their identity alongside, and never to the detriment of, others. As part of our commitment to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our learners and service users, we will communicate and demonstrate the British values of:

- Democracy;
- The rule of law;
- Individual liberty and mutual respect;
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Furthermore our Prevent Lead, Programme Leads and PSD Coordinators are working alongside the Tower Hamlets Resilience Advisor (Thomas Llewellyn-Jones) to develop our Personal and Social Development (PSD) and Enrichment curriculums to examine topics such as Internet/Digital Awareness, Prejudice and Discrimination, Conspiracy Theories, Sexism, Homophobia, Religious and Ethnic Conflicts, Critical thinking and Peer Pressure, Islamic Extremism and Islamophobia, Propaganda, and The Far Right (EDL, Britain First etc.). Some of these topics will be addressed within specified lessons and activities, whilst others will be embedded across all areas of the curriculum and cultures within City Gateway, including:

- Tutorials
- Engagement activities
- Class Representative elections
- Faith forums
- Mentoring
- Learner Voice forums
- Trips and residential
- Coaching

#### **5. Online Risks**

City Gateway is aware that the internet and social media platforms are a channel through which extremist ideologies can be promoted, violent and offensive material can be engaged with, young people can be vulnerable to grooming and such channels can even be utilised as a command structure. There is a risk that

young people can be exposed to material that glorifies violence, glamorises extremist lifestyles, or incites viewers to violent acts.

The City Gateway Online Safety Policy includes details of how learners are kept safe online within City Gateway, by addressing both user behaviour and network security.

The Online Safety Policy sets out the logistical and technological safeguards that are in place to help stop users being exposed to, or able to access, extremist and offensive material. As part of the wider Curriculum Development and Engagement within City Gateway there are a number of lessons and activities designed to equip City Gateway service users with an awareness of potential online risks, skills and understanding to promote safe practices online, and the knowledge to know how to report offensive material both within and outside of City Gateway.

## **6. External Visitors and use of the facilities**

- When external visitors or speakers are sought to provide an enriching experience for learners, they will be positively vetted and contact will be made with any organisations, groups or businesses they are affiliated with. Such vetting is the responsibility of the staff member that books them and is carried out to ensure that: Any messages communicated to learners are consistent with the ethos of City Gateway and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise learners through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Any activities are carefully evaluated by staff to ensure that they are effective.

Any groups or organisations that use City Gateway property or facilities will be subject to similar vetting procedures and adherence to acceptable use guidelines. It is the responsibility of the PSO to ensure such checks are carried out and activities of external groups are monitored.

## **7. Training for staff and volunteers**

All new staff work through a Safeguarding induction process when they join City Gateway. The Safeguarding Handbook contains the information outlined in 'Part one: Safeguarding information for all staff' of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2014), as well as additional information on the risks, signs and reporting procedures for concerns regarding extremism and radicalisation.

Furthermore, information is displayed within staff offices that outline the local Prevent strategy and important information. The Principal Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is responsible for ensuring all new staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training in a timely manner. Safeguarding training is offered as part of the termly development days, providing an opportunity to upskill staff on recent policy and practice developments. All staff will receive in-service training at least every year that will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads and Prevent Lead will attend local Prevent and inter-agency training as necessary, at least annually, which again will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

All staff will be encouraged to undertake the following online training:  
[Prevent Duty training.](#)

## **8. Identifying those at risk of extremism and radicalisation**

Staff and volunteers need to have an awareness that all children, young people and vulnerable adults are a risk of being groomed by extremists or developing an extremist ideology. As highlighted in section 3.1, there are a number of reasons why someone may be susceptible to this risk. Some of the early indicators to be aware of include:

- Showing sympathy and/or support for extremist causes;
- Glorifying violence;
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature;
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as “Muslims Against Crusades” or other non-proscribed extremist groups such as the English Defence League. City Gateway IT policy should be sufficiently robust to protect learners. However should staff members have any Prevent concerns, they should raise these concerns with the PSO.
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships;
- Secretive behaviour;
- Associating with known extremist individuals or groups.

## **9. Reporting Processes**

If any staff member, parent or volunteer has a concern about a child, young person or vulnerable adult (or group) they should follow the normal safeguarding procedures by reporting their concern using the Safeguarding Form (located at) X:\Safeguarding\Resources\Blank Forms and Templates. If there is an immediate risk then contact a member of the safeguarding team by telephone or in person (contact details are in Appendix A).

## **10. Interventions**

Staff should follow the normal safeguarding procedures in case there is a concern. The PSO is responsible for Prevent in City Gateway and concerns should be raised with her.

## **11. Governors and Trustees**

The Board of Governors and Board of Trustees will support the ethos and values of City Gateway and will support the organisation in tackling extremism and radicalisation. Kate Vintiner is the named Trustee with responsibility for safeguarding. In line with the provisions set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) The Board of Trustees will challenge the senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Governors and Trustees will review this policy annually and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or

guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## **Appendix A - Key Contacts**

- Principal Safeguarding Officer: Hannah Pilkington: 07580 585614
- Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Currently vacant
- Tower Hamlets Prevent coordinator: Simon Smith : 020 7364 4691  
Email: [simon.smith@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:simon.smith@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

### **Children's Social Care (Tower Hamlets)**

- LBTH Duty Team- MASH : 020 7364 5006
- Integrated Pathways Support Team (IPST): 020 7364 7151
- Out of Hours Service (after 5pm and weekends): 020 7364 4079

### **Social Care Team-Adults (Tower Hamlets)**

- Duty Team: 020 7364 5005
- Out of Hours Service (after 5pm and weekends):020 7364 4079

### **Children's Social Care (City of London)**

- Children & Families Duty Worker: 020 7332 3621
- Out of Hours Service (after 5pm and weekends): 020 8356 2710
- Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
- Department of Education Extremism Helpline: 020 7340 7264
- Designated Officer DO (formerly LADO):
  - Tower Hamlets: Melanie Benzie 020 7364 0677- 07903 238827,  
[LADO@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
  - City of London: Pat Dixon 020 7332 1215,  
[LADO@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000**

**Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS):** 0845 120 4550,  
[www.ccpas.co.uk](http://www.ccpas.co.uk)