



Case Study B: Kirklees Prevent Hub

Summary: The following case study outlines the support offered to a young person who was referred to Kirklees Prevent. Concerns were raised about the individual's potential vulnerability to radicalisation and extremism because of comments he made about Islam, Sharia Law and his right wing views which were expressed on social media. The young person, with support from his family, was offered Channel support through a one-to-one process with a Home Office approved mentor. As a result the young person's vulnerability to be drawn into right wing ideology was reduced.

Background – Reason for the referral

- Young person aged 16, described as a bright and articulate student with a growing interest in politics. No previous concerns.
- Young person demonstrated a grievance with the Islamic faith and organisations tackling Muslim hate crimes. Young person became confrontational and abusive and admitted to having an interest in right wing organisations such as Pegida (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West) on social media.
- Young person developed his understanding of Islam through the internet and social media and had a number of unanswered questions about the religion. Young person also made reference to an 'us and them' culture.
- Young person disclosed that in the past he had been a victim of bullying by an older Asian pupil. Other than 'liking' comments from a right wing organisation on Facebook he had not, at that time, developed his interest further.
- Young person regularly discussed terrorism and right wing politics with friends who held similar views with no alternative viewpoints or narratives.

What happened?

- Concerns were raised about the potential for the young person to become radicalised if not offered a constructive and balanced counter narrative to some of his views.
- Engagement with the young person and his parents to discuss the initial concerns.
- Parents were unaware of the young person's views and increased interest in right wing activity and politics.
- The Channel process was discussed with the whole family who welcomed support.
- A multi-agency risk assessment of the individual's vulnerabilities was produced and a support plan put in place through the Kirklees Channel Panel in partnership with the family.
- As part of this support plan, a Home Office approved mentor was identified to provide one-to-one support to the young person. This gave the young person the opportunity to constructively debate his increasing grievance with aspects of the Islamic faith and was offered a balanced narrative.
- Engagement with the young person's school to develop a balanced curriculum in line with the Prevent Duty and fundamental British Values.

Outcomes

- The young person engaged with a Home Office approved mentor who provided a balanced counter narrative to some of the grievances the young person held around Islamic faith. The young person developed a greater understanding of the Islamic faith and was able to have his questions answered, challenged and debated in a safe and constructive environment.
- The Kirklees Prevent Engagement Team engaged with the young person's school to raise awareness of Prevent and assist in shaping the school's curriculum to build resilience to radicalisation and extremism. A long term plan is in place to support the school in the delivery of their curriculum.
- Received positive feedback from the young person and his family. Regular contact was kept with the young person and his family in order to provide further support if required.