



Eastlea Community Centre

Stockton Road, Seaham, County Durham, SR7 8DX

Children, Young People & Family Services



Tots 'R' Us Nursery

Prevent Policy

Last Updated: 13th January 2020

Eastlea Community Centre – A Registered Charity: 1160391

Ofsted Registered Nursery: EY489173

Prevent Policy

Safeguarding children and young people from being drawn into or supporting terrorism. Protecting Children from Extremism and Radicalisation.

Childcare providers have a vital role to play in protecting children and young people from the risks of extremism and radicalisation. This role is underpinned by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011 is part of an overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism activity.

At Tots 'R' Us Nursery, all staff are expected to set an example by upholding the fundamental principles of British values, and promoting them to the children at the Nursery. These include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Nursery is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who we work with. As a childcare provider, we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. The threat from terrorism has raised a specific need to safeguard children and young people from being radicalised into holding extreme views, including justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, and steering individuals into a rigid and narrow ideology that is either vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including embracing diversity and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

The Nursery values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Children, young people and all childcare workers 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/or 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.

Risks 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 children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. The Nursery is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

The Nursery seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism.

Links to other policies

Policy Statement links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Confidentiality, Data Protection and Sharing Information Policy
- Positive Behaviour and British Values Policy
- E-Safety Policy

Aims and Principles

To ensure all Nursery staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised by working alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that individuals are safe from harm.

The principle objectives are that:

All staff working or volunteering within our Nursery will:

- Have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant
- Know what the Nursery policy is on safeguarding from radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise
- All parents will know that the Nursery has policies in place to keep children and young people safe from harm and that we regularly review our systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective

Definitions

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism (**Appendix 1**).

Extremism is defined by 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 (**Appendix 1**).

Terrorism is defined by Government as *“The use of violence in order to accomplish political, religious or social objectives”*. Terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. Effectiveness is not the act itself but the impact on Government and the public.

Procedures for referrals

Keeping children and young people safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at our Nursery and although the risk is minimal in County Durham, it is important for us to be vigilant and remain informed about the issues, which affect risks to the provision. All staff are reminded to dispel belief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’.

When any member of staff has concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Nursery’s Designated Safeguarding Lead for safeguarding children. All staff will follow the same process and flowchart as used for any safeguarding concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be responsible for contacting the **Durham Police Prevent Team*** who will assess whether the child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation, and where relevant, the Police Prevent Team will refer them to the Local Authority **Channel Panel****.

Durham Police Prevent Team - Telephone 0191 3752234 or 101

Email: HQspecialbranch@durham.pnn.police.uk

Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for the Nursery is Michelle Todd - Telephone 0191 5812399 / 07484032308 who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff are aware of who is the first point of contact in relation to protecting children and young people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing children and young people 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 the Nursery in relation to protecting children and young people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Raising awareness within the organisation of safeguarding processes relating to protecting children and young people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Acting as the first point of contact within the organisation for case discussions relating to children and young people who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable children and young people into the **Channel**** process via the **Police Prevent Team***
- Attending Channel meetings, where necessary, to support assessment and intervention.

***The Police Prevent Team** will carry out an initial assessment to ascertain whether the child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation, and where relevant, will refer them to the Local Authority Channel Panel.

****Channel** is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. Channel aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to support 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
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young 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.

Risk reduction

The Nursery Management Team, Trustees and Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the Nursery and put actions in place to reduce any identified risks.

Children and young people are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Staff Training

The Nursery will ensure that staff have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. They are aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and they understand the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Training is undertaken via a briefing, e learning or a face-to-face workshop to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) session.

Policy Review

This policy statement alongside all other policies of the Nursery is to be reviewed annually, unless changes in legislation necessitate an earlier review.

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. Children and young people 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 all Nursery staff is able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
 6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

Identity Crisis – the child or young person is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society

Personal Crisis – the child or young person 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 child or young person’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 child or young person may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure or rejection of civic life

Experiences of Criminality – this may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration

Individual Needs – child or young person may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all children or young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

7. 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
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.