

# Knowledge Alert

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**Cafcass now has a number of cases involving Radicalisation and we are in the process of developing learning materials to support practitioners working with these cases. As a relatively new area of practice there is not much reference material. Some initial information and some helpful links are included below and are saved on MySkills in the Knowledge Bite section.**

## Radicalisation

- British Home Office definition “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
- Extremism is defined 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.
- In assessing drivers of and pathways to radicalisation, the line between extremism and terrorism is often blurred. Terrorist groups of all kinds very often draw upon ideologies which have been developed, disseminated and popularised by extremist organisations that appear to be non-violent.
- A key part of the [government's counter-terrorism strategy is called Prevent](#).

It is a programme aimed at stopping people getting drawn towards violent extremism. Prevent programmes are in place in all key sectors, including local government, health, education, prisons, immigration and charities. The Prevent Strategy has been very much focussed upon adults/young adults.

- Prevent also refers people to the "Channel ", a multi-agency programme to identify and provide support to people at risk of radicalisation. It uses psychologists, social workers and religious experts to help counsel thousands of people considered vulnerable to extremist ideas. The assessment framework involves three dimensions: engagement, intent and capability.

## Family Proceedings & Radicalisation

High Court of Justice- Mr Justice Hayden: London Borough of Tower Hamlets and M&Ors

*“All involved must recognise that in this particular process it is the interest of the individual child that is paramount. This cannot be eclipsed by wider considerations of counter terrorism policy or operations...”*

*“The family court system, particularly the Family Division, is and always has been, in my view, in the vanguard of change in life & society. Where there are changes in medicine or in technology or cultural change, so often they resonate first within the family. Here, the type of harm I have been asked to evaluate is a different facet of vulnerability for children than that which the courts have had to deal with in the past. What, however is clear is that the conventional safeguarding principles will still afford the best protection”.*

## Current cases:

### *Public law*

- Two children aged 14 and 17 who were taken to Somalia and placed in some kind of military school, the siblings at home are 16 yrs. and 6 months old. Father has alleged that the older child is at risk of fleeing to Syria
- Three Children are aged 7,4,2,1 and the allegations are that their parents took them to Turkey intending to travel to ISIS controlled region. Family have returned to UK and children are Wards of Court
- Child under 2, mum had gone to Syria to marry an IS soldier and then fled, arrested on return to Birmingham
- Three children (6, 3 and new-born baby) father in Syria, mother planning to take children to Syria to join father
- 2 interrelated cases, 3 adults and 4 children (10, 8, 3 & 1) were detained by the Turkish authorities close to the Turkish / Syrian border and an area controlled by ISIS. Family returned to UK and children made Ward of Courts. Adults released without charge, investigation on going. Finding of Fact\* before the President of Family Division held earlier this week.
- 3 adults and 4 children (12, 6, 4 & 2) arrested by the police at Manchester Airport when they were about to board a flight to Turkey. The police believe that they were going to join family already in Syria. Police investigation is ongoing but that they had insufficient evidence to charge any of the adults.

\*The finding of fact hearing was heard before the President of the Family Division earlier this week. The outcome will be circulated once we receive it.

### *Private law*

- Two children (8 & 6) – alleged issues around mother's ideology and her threats to take children to Pakistan.
- Three children (3, 8 & 10) – alleged issues are around father and partners 'ideology' rather than specifics links to Turkey/Syria.
- EIT case a current intelligence op into the applicant and his partners.

## Practice Development

- Talking about the issues of extremism and radicalization with a service user or family is not always easy and some might not feel comfortable due to a lack of political and cultural understanding or a fear of false accusation.
- This is a new area of practice and we must recognise the importance of taking the time to know and understand our service users. **Make it your business to be self-aware about how cultural messages and diversity debates may be influencing your practice.**
- Over the past few months there have been increasing numbers of cases involving parents and young children. These cases require staff to assess and evaluate a different facet of vulnerability. We must ensure that staff have awareness and confidence to undertake the work.

- We have plans to develop a knowledge bite for MySkills
- We will collate learning/practice wisdom/good practice from the current cases and disseminate to all staff.
- We will review the outcomes of FOF to be undertaken by the President of the Family Division.

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