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1. Introduction

Central School of Ballet safeguarding duty includes protecting both students and staff from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into terrorism.

The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people. This policy is designed to provide a clear framework to structure and inform Central's response to safeguarding concerns for those people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism. In addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in identifying appropriate interventions based on the threshold of need and intervention model and the 'Channel' process. All staff and parents need to understand their responsibilities and what to do when a student, or member of staff, is identified as being at risk. This policy should be read in conjunction with Central's Acceptable Use Policy for IT Systems.

2. Definitions

Prevent

'Prevent' is part of the Government's multi-strand anti-terrorism strategy 'Contest'. Prevent is directed towards stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Under Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Central School of Ballet also has a duty to refer people on to Southwark's Channel Panel under the Prevent strategy where there are concerns that they are being radicalised.

Channel

'Channel' is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism;

- assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding persons from being drawn into extremist activity leading to violence against others. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before they are involved in any type of illegal activity.

The Channel process is similar to the way in which individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs and other social issues are supported. Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support ranging from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities. Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multi-agency panel.

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During this process, there will inevitably be opportunities to intervene in order to reduce the risk of the individual being attracted to extremist ideology and causes and safeguard him/her from the risk of radicalisation. It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Indeed, some of the factors that lead an individual to becoming radicalised are no different to those that might lead individuals towards involvement with other activity such as gangs, drugs, sexual exploitation, etc.

Those involved in extremist activity come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or a 10-point plan of what might drive an individual towards becoming radicalised.

3. Our approach to Prevent

As with other safeguarding issues, where a member of staff has any concerns that a person or their family may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the school's Single Point of Contact officer. If the concerns about an individual are not serious enough to be escalated or where there is no evidence that the individual is vulnerable to radicalisation the Prevent / Safeguarding Lead may decide that they can be addressed by action within the organisation. In this case, the organisation will take the appropriate action to address any concerns, and review whether the concerns remain after this.

Where it is deemed that there is a risk to an individual in the context of radicalisation to extremist ideology and causes, the individual will be referred to the Channel programme.

Staff who recruit and employ guest tutors and artists who are unknown to the school, should ensure through the use of search engines such as Google that adults invited into school do not hold extremist views and that all visitors to Central understand and are directed towards this Prevent Policy and the Child Protection Safeguarding Policy. This should be read in conjunction with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

4. Factors which might contribute to an individual becoming radicalised

Below are some of the factors that might contribute towards an individual becoming radicalised.

This is not an exhaustive list and the presence of any of these factors does not necessarily mean that he/she will be involved in extremist activity. However, a combination of many of these factors may increase the vulnerability to extremist activity.

Identity crisis	Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
Personal crisis	Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
Personal circumstances	Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
Unmet aspirations	Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life
Criminality	Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

5. Single Point of Contact (SPOC) officer details

The Single Point of Contact Officer for Central School of Ballet is Maxine Bunting-Thomas

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6. Updates or Changes to the Prevent Policy and Further Information

Last updated/reviewed: October 2023