



Case Study A: Kirklees Prevent Hub

Summary: The following case study refers to a young person who was referred to Kirklees Prevent by a local secondary school concerned about the individual's vulnerability to radicalisation and extremism because of a comment made in school referring to ISIS (Daesh). The individual had a number of vulnerabilities that made him susceptible to harm including social isolation, limited friendship groups, bullying and behavioural issues at home and at school. The individual and family were offered support through the Kirklees Prevent Hub and an action plan was put in place to support the whole family. Through a process of engagement, interventions and support, the individual's vulnerability to radicalisation decreased and the levels of resilience amongst the family increased.

Background – what were we worried about?

- Young person isolated at home and school with no evidence of any friendships.
- Young person found it hard to cope in a school environment and had reported bullying on numerous occasions. "He was constantly bullied, pushed around and threatened."
- Reported behavioural issues within school and a breakdown in communication between family and school. "I had reported that to the school so many times but they did nothing and kept ignoring us."
- Young person had made reference to ISIS and violence towards parliament and the school. "I wish the school would get bombed by ISIS."
- Drawings and notes in school workbooks made reference to weapons and fighting.
- Mother felt targeted and victimised by school staff and concerned about the school's approach, including the referral to Prevent. "He hated school and he would run away from school and I would call the police to find him."
- Mother struggled to manage individual's behaviour at home which impacted on the wider family.
- Young person spent increasingly more time on computers and online platforms.
- Young person felt suicidal. "He would talk about killing himself."
- Potential for non-engagement and for the vulnerabilities of the individual to increase.

What happened?

- Prevent Engagement Officer assigned to the referral and whole family package of support offered
- Regular visits to the family to build trust and a relationship between family and worker including conversations about the referral to Prevent and the role of Prevent.
- Assessment of vulnerabilities and issues conducted by engagement officer with family.
- 1:1 sessions with young person away from family home and school environment to understand leading factors associated with vulnerabilities.
- Support plan put in place for whole family with the main package of support tailored to referred individual and mother.

Outcomes

- Young person attended local youth provision on a regular basis and socialised with young people of his own age, participated in positive activities and developed personal and social skills. Mother said, "You came up with an action plan for me and school and you would take my son to activities and this played a huge role in building his confidence."
- Regular 1:1 sessions provided platforms for discussions, debate and interventions associated with the comments made about Daesh including specific packages to raise awareness of extremist narratives, staying safe online and critical thinking.
- Significant improvement in the relationship between family and school created an ongoing, open line of communication. School actively explored ways to manage the young person's behaviour, including 'break-out time' and a designated teacher to practically support the needs of the individual.
- Assessment identified lack of confidence and self-esteem in mother and need for engagement with peers away from the family home. Mother was signposted to a local women's group facilitated by Prevent Hub and took part in a 10 week course to manage conflict within the home and develop resilience to negative and extremist narratives. Mother has developed conflict resolution skills and is continuing to engage with the group on a weekly basis taking a leading role in the development of the group. "I want everyone to say no to discrimination and take action against it because there's no moral in discrimination."
- A weekly debate group called 'Chatterbox' is facilitated by Prevent within school to ensure young people have the ability to safely and constructively debate issues pertinent to them, ensuring school has a platform to listen to the voice of young people.

- *"As a mother I want my children to become successful people who can bring something positive to society. I don't want them to become broken individuals with no self-esteem who become a burden on society and live at other people's expense."*
- *"I really appreciate your support. I hope you continue with your positive work."*