



**Through our practice, we help  
children, young people and  
their families to have safer and  
better lives.**

# The Shock of The New

What we mean by safeguarding does and should change – the system's capacity to absorb new work is the issue as well as the contested nature of statutory intervention in new safeguarding.

For PVE this is compounded by the nature of the safeguarding investigation – impact of beliefs on parenting, exposure to material which may or may not be proscribed, and affiliation issues.

# The Shock of the New

In February 2015 we saw the flight of the three girls who went to Syria: bright, intelligent and high achieving young girls who would normally not be on the social care radar, not early help.

Our Safeguarding radar had to come into into full play, it was the shock of the new.

Early wardship cases – steep learning curve for all.

# Our Journey in Numbers



## ***CSC Response to Radicalisation/Extremism***

### **Radicalisation – Practice Challenges- snapshot**

- We currently have approximately 64 PVE cases in Children’s Social Care, this includes:
  - 4 wardship cases
  - 1 ICO
  - 26 approx children subject to CP plans
  - 6 supervision orders.
  - The rest are either subject to CIN plans or being assessed.
  - All PVE cases are in Children Social Care– trend to discuss and compare.

## ***CSC Response to Radicalisation/Extremism***

### **Radicalisation – Practice Challenges**

- They do not present the usual vulnerabilities which is our driver for intervention, and our current assessment and intervention model do not neatly fit into the casework.
- The consequences are high. We do not know what these youngsters will endure if they travel to Syria or Iraq (war-torn areas). For some we know they could be coerced into forced marriage or even rape. For many, they would have been separated from their families, friends and their communities.
- In families of TACT offenders - access and keeping children in professional sight is challenging.

## Children Social Care Response since February 2015

We have had to develop a specialist response to these cases.

We have built upon the work done by the School Improvement and expertise within CSC over last few years.

We have used core funding to create a PVE team that takes work from our Social Inclusion Panel via Mash.

To keep a good oversight, test practice thinking and to learn from casework.

Criteria: flight risks, disclosures about online grooming, radicalisation, returned families, families of TACT offenders

We will accept referrals about OOB children in LBTH schools as part of school improvement offer.

## ***CSC Response to Radicalisation/Extremism***

### **Our Learning so far... - Thematic Analysis**

Families have affiliation  
towards extremist groups  
and children are home  
educated

Young people being  
groomed into affiliation  
without family 's  
knowledge

At risk of flight

## ***CSC Response to Radicalisation/Extremism***

### **Our Learning so far... - Thematic Analysis (continued)**

Families are often part of network where they know each other e.g. know those who have gone to Syria .

Children who are vulnerable to many things due to learning disabilities, mental health or Autism.

## ***CSC Response to Radicalisation/Extremism***

### **Radicalisation – Practice Challenges**

#### **Questions**

- How do we ensure our response is proportionate and does not infringe on human rights?
- How do we measure risks in terms of an ideology?
- When does an ideology or an affiliation with certain groups become a safeguarding concern?
- What do we do when parenting is of a high standard with no other vulnerabilities except the risk of extreme radicalisation?

## ***CSC Response to Radicalisation/Extremism***

Both cases show meaty material – first case showed how far we have come- a joint investigation took place with SO15 and because it was joint and timely we have achieved a good level of cooperation with family which enhanced the information, analysis and planning.

The second scenario initially raised eyebrows but school had existing concerns and articulated this really well via the CAF – there were lots of vulnerabilities and risk.

★

# A moment of clarity and perspective

# The Working Together Rule

Justice Hayden:

*The Importance of coordinated strategy, predicted on open and respectful cooperation .....open dialogue, appropriate sharing of information, mutual respect for the differing roles involved and interagency cooperation.*

- - LBTH v M and ors



**Nasima Patel**  
**Service Head**  
**Children Social Care**  
**[Nasima.Patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Nasima.Patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**