



February 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

You may have seen recent news reports highlighting the risk of online grooming and radicalisation of young people during the current pandemic lockdown.

More and more pupils are now being home-schooled and spending more time online than normal. Without realising, your child could potentially be the target for online radicalisers and extremists. This is not just relevant to lockdown, but the risk is more prevalent during this time.

Police Scotland Counter Terrorism specialists have highlighted this risk, particularly with regard to younger persons being drawn into chat forums that host extremist rhetoric and discussion.

The question we would ask is whether you really know who your children are engaging with online and especially on the numerous discussion forums.

To address this concern and provide supportive safeguarding advice on the radicalisation and terrorism issue, East Lothian Council would like to draw your attention to two informative resources for parents, carers and safeguarders alike

www.actearly.uk



www.ltai.info



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ACT Early is the main Counter Terrorism policing safeguarding website where you can find signs to spot, case studies and other partner organisations who can offer support and how to share concerns. This website is a place where families and friends can seek help and advice and is promoted, UK wide, by specialist Counter Terrorism officers.

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies. If you are worried someone close to you is becoming radicalised, act early and seek help. The sooner you reach out, the quicker we can protect the person you care about from being groomed and exploited by extremists.

Let's Talk About It is an initiative designed to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to prevent terrorism and is well worth exploring.

The aim of the site is to give people a clear understanding of both Prevent and safeguarding processes, while providing signposting support for people who are concerned that someone they know may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

LTAI is perfect for signposting people to useful information around how to spot the signs that someone may be being radicalised, providing tips for parents and professionals alike.



East Lothian Council is a committed partner of the UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy and has a safeguarding duty under the Terrorism Act 2015. We work in liaison with Police Scotland to deliver Prevent advice to the public and also to provide support around individuals who may have been drawn into radicalisation.

Should you have any concerns regarding someone you believe is being radicalised then please telephone

Police Scotland on 101

or

The East Lothian Council Prevent Lead (Judith Tait) on:

Work- 01620 827633

Mobile Number- 07850 975219

or email jtait@eastlothian.gov.uk

All calls are treated as confidential.

Thank you.

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