

# **Safeguarding Children Online Radicalisation and Extremism**

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# Safeguarding Children

1. Safeguarding children - the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
  2. Safeguarding is defined as:
    - protecting children from maltreatment;
    - preventing impairment of children's health or development;
    - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
    - taking action to **enable all children to have the best outcomes**
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children, revised edition, HM Government, 2006 and 2010 and 2013*
  - *Children Act 2004*



Maslow's hierarchy  
of needs

Fulfilling potential

Esteem needs

Love, affection, belonging

Protection from violence and harm

Food, water, sleep

Protection from violence and harm

Food, water, sleep

# Vulnerable Situations:

**domestic violence**

**missing**

**privately fostered**

**child trafficking**

**sexual exploitation**

**drug and alcohol abuse**

**mental ill health**

**sexual abuse**

**radicalisation**





A graphic from a police guide for school staff showing possible indicators of 'radicalisation'. [SOURCE: ACPO]

# London Child Protection Procedures

Policy and thresholds which apply  
across London

[www.londonscb.gov.uk](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk)

# Protecting children at risk of radicalisation

- Children and young people can suffer harm when exposed to extremist ideology.
- This harm can range from a child adopting or complying with extreme views which limit their social interaction and full engagement with their education, to children being groomed for involvement in violent attacks.





- Children can be exposed to harmful, extremist ideology in the immediate or extended family, or relatives/family friends who live outside the family home but have influence over the child's life. Older children or young people might self-radicalise over the internet or through the influence of their peer network – in this instance their parents might not know about this or feel powerless to stop their child's radicalisation.











**Gang membership**

**Sexual abuse**

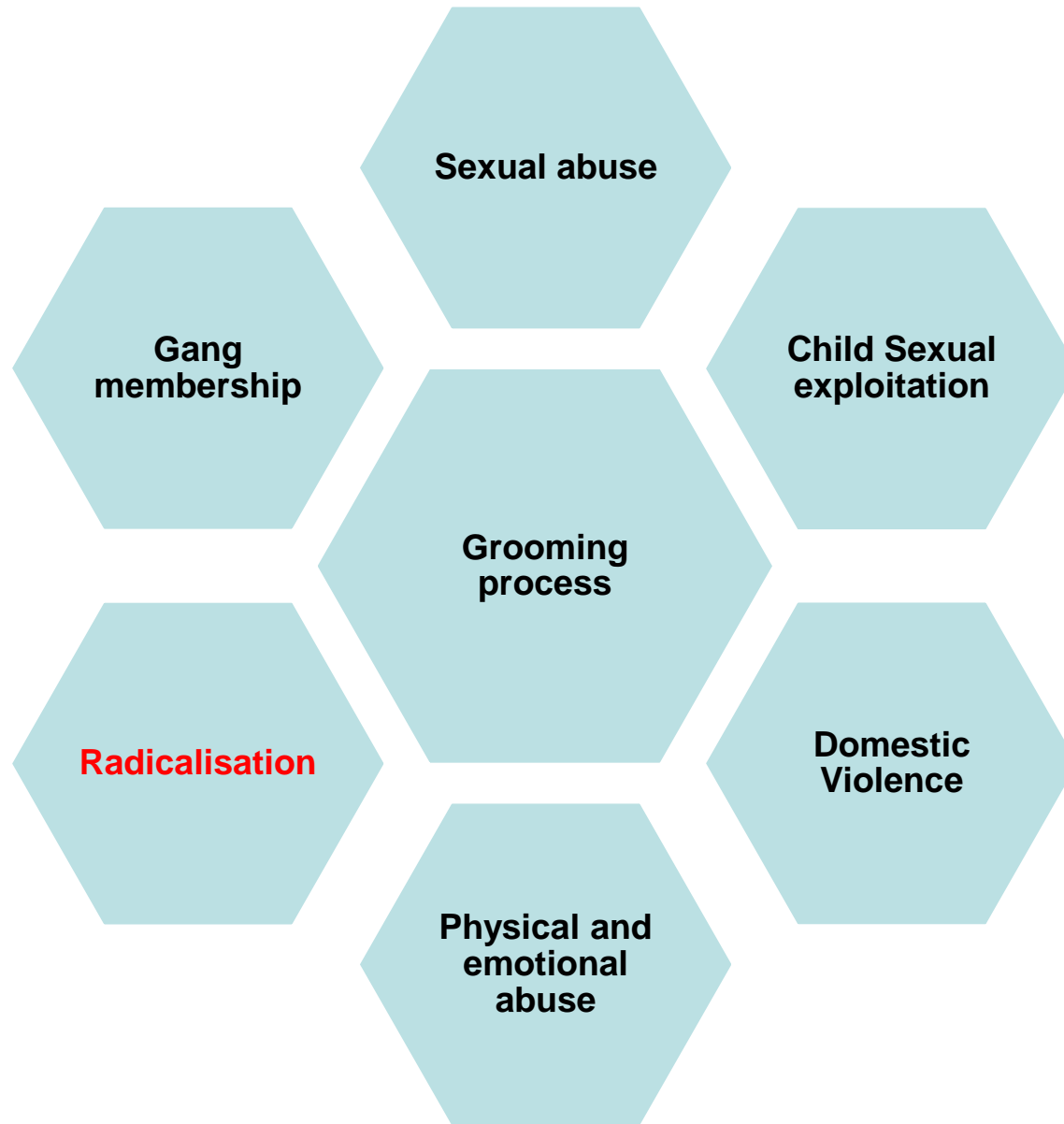
**Child Sexual exploitation**

**Grooming process**

**Domestic Violence**









- Pay attention
- Ask questions
- Stay involved

# Duty to co-operate and refer

All professionals in agencies with contact with children and members of their families must make a referral to LA children's social care if there are signs that a child or a young person:

- Is suffering significant harm through abuse or neglect
- Is likely to suffer significant harm in the future

The timing of such referrals is key to intervention, and must be made **on the same working day** of identification or disclosure of harm or risk of harm



# Case Study

## Child O



# Reporting

# What stops a child from telling

- They may not recognise the abuse
- Direct threats and fear of punishment
- Awareness of implications
- Guilt and shame
- **Lack of opportunity**
- They may not know how to describe abuse
- Children 'tell' in different ways. Sometimes it is not the spoken word, but through play and creative work



# In school

Talk to your child protection lead  
- who will report to your LA MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or Duty Team



- Police 101
- Safer Internet Centre  
helpline for professionals  
0844 381 4772  
helpline@saferinternet.org.uk

# What happens if you are worried about an adult in school?

- If worried about any adult in your setting – tell your headteacher  
**same working day**
- If you are worried about your headteacher – tell your chair of governors and the LADO  
(Local Authority Designated Officer)  
**same working day**  
(Whistleblowing Policy)





# Challenging your 'friends'

Dear zzz

I'm writing a private message because I noticed you liked a post from 'Britain First' with a photo of zzzz and I didn't know if you knew anything about them. They have a huge number of followers and appear on face value to be a patriotic group. They are in fact a very right wing extremist group and they use their Facebook 'shares' to reach new audiences.



They posted a photo of a starving dog in 2014 with a link to donate to a charity to help, when in fact the money was going straight into their organisation; they pulled a similar stunt with a poppy appeal. Some members were in the BNP but considered it too moderate. Britain First advocates taking direct violent action against all Muslims in the UK.

I would hate you, to be linked with them, even if only in a FB post.



# British Values



## **Defining spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**

**spiritual** ... ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values

**moral** ... ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England

interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues .

**social** ... acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

**cultural** ... interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

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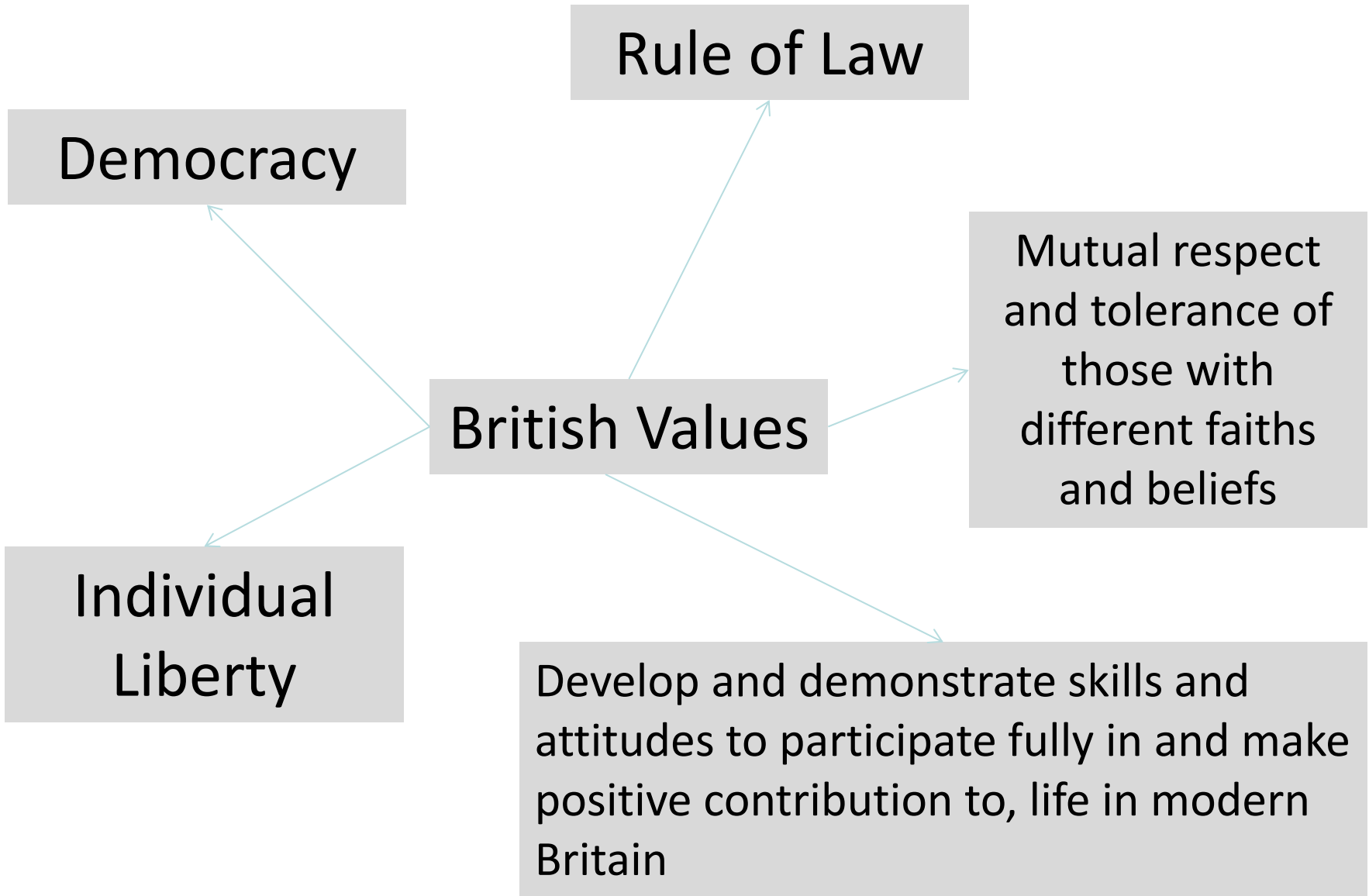
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# Closing remarks ...

# What next - Us

- We will send a conference digest to you, including ppts, links etc
- Some of these materials will be added to [esafety.lgfl.net](http://esafety.lgfl.net)
- We'll keep looking for new materials to help address esafety, harm and abuse



# What next - You

- Share with your staff – child protection is everyone's responsibility
- Check your esafety policy is up to date
- Raise the profile of this topic
- Challenge and question colleagues who inadvertently share extreme content/views/links
- Support young people – social media is ever changing



# Thank You