**TACKLING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION**

(Attachment to the Boxing Academy Safeguarding Policy)

**Introduction**

Extremism and Radicalisation are important issues in the national British and international context. The Boxing Academy students are vulnerable students in many areas of their thinking and actions. It is essential that the academy has a clear and robust approach to safeguard students from extremism and radicalisation. This guidance is based on the new model policy from the Birmingham Local Safeguarding Board and is tailored to meet the needs of the students at the Boxing Academy.

**Recognising the signs of extremism and radicalisation**

Indicators of vulnerability include:

**Identity**

* the student/pupil is distanced from their cultural /religious heritage and experiences;
* discomfort about their place in society;
* personal crisis – the student/pupil may be experiencing family tensions;
* a sense of isolation;
* low self-esteem;
* they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends;
* they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

**Personal Circumstances**

* migration;
* local community tensions; and
* events affecting the student/pupil’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy

**Unmet Aspirations**

* the student/pupil may have perceptions of injustice;
* a feeling of failure;
* rejection of civic life;

**Experiences of Criminality**

* involvement with criminal groups
* imprisonment; and
* poor resettlement/reintegration on release

**Special Educational Needs**

* social interaction
* empathy with others
* understanding the consequences of their actions; and awareness of the motivations of others

**More critical risk factors could include:**

* being in contact with extremist recruiters;
* accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
* possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
* using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
* justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
* joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
* significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour;
* experiencing a high level of social isolation, resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or personal crisis.

It is often difficult to recognise some of these factors. The signs of vulnerability are only indicators and many can have reasonable explanations. It is important for staff to be aware and alert in order to consult with whoever.

The Boxing Academy DSL is Anna Cain. She is the main point of contact with concerns about students who may be at risk of radicalisation and or extremism. If she is not available a member of the SLT should be consulted. It is better to be cautious and misread a sign than to ignore real concerns.

**What to do with your concerns?**

The procedure is the same as outlined in the safeguarding policy. It is important to share concerns at the earliest opportunity.

**Concerns about staff and recruitment**

At the Boxing Academy we need to be aware that not all adults who work with children are true or transparent in their intentions. The Safer Recruitment Policy outlines the academy

procedures for appointing staff. They are rigorous and aim to reduce the likelihood of appointing a member of staff who may be ‘extreme’ or ‘radicalised’.

**Good Practice**

Good practice follows the procedures outlined in the safeguarding policy.

The RE, Personal Development, British Values and PSHE curriculum, along with the wider SMSC and Boxing programmes, include teaching for students about some of the issues involved in radicalisation and extremism. These subject areas emphasise the importance of making informed decisions, treating all people with respect and tolerance of other views.

**Training**

All staff will be provided with compulsory Prevent training on tackling extremism and radicalisation. This training will also be refreshed on an annual basis, with updates from the DSL as required.