

Markers Indicative of Concern of Potential Radicalisation

The significance of each indicator is highly dependent on the context in which it occurs, and must be considered in combination with other information available.

Vulnerabilities

Lower Levels of Employment, Income & Substance Misuse

- Complex needs can put an individual in a position of susceptibility to be exploited

Personal Crisis

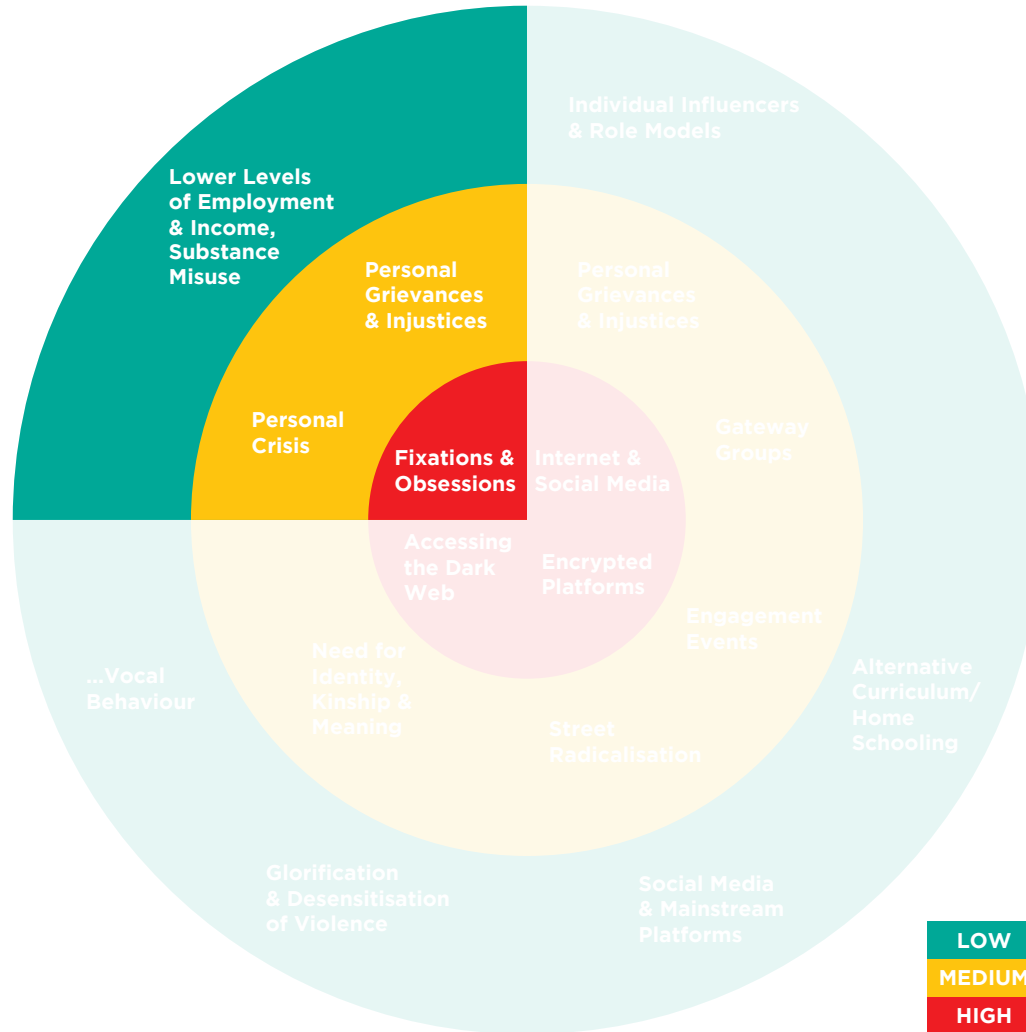
- Mental Health issues are being identified in an increasing number of Prevent Referrals
- A combination of a number of complex, personal needs can culminate to/trigger a breakdown. During this crisis a number of mixed and unclear statements can often be made that can be confused/attributed to an extremist mind-set. The majority of cases, however, do not show any genuine extremist concern

Personal Grievances & Injustices

- Influencers play upon personal and shared grievances in their messaging campaigns of victimisation. They often target an individuals disillusionment to society in their narratives
- Messaging heavily relies on emotive themes and interpretation of mainstream social injustices, for example, anti-Muslim rhetoric and anti-immigration

Fixations & Obsessions

- It is not uncommon for an individual to display a significant depth of knowledge when fixated or obsessed on a certain topic, and will often relate to what is in the media at the time. It becomes challenging to separate a genuine interest from a potential harmful fixation
- Individuals who are vulnerable may be drawn into conspiracy theories to help explain complex societal issues. Extremist groups often use conspiracy theories to generate support as they are linked to threat perceptions, prejudice and negative attitudes towards powerful or socially marginalised groups. This may lead to the exploration of more extremist material



Unemployment rates in London,
Feb 21

366,000

(7.2% unemployment rate)

In 2019/20, there were
725 referrals to
Prevent from Health
(12% of total referrals)
up from 564 in 2018/19
(10% of total referrals)

A fake post accusing muslims of breaking
lockdown rules was shared

2,700
times

Influencers

Individual Role Models

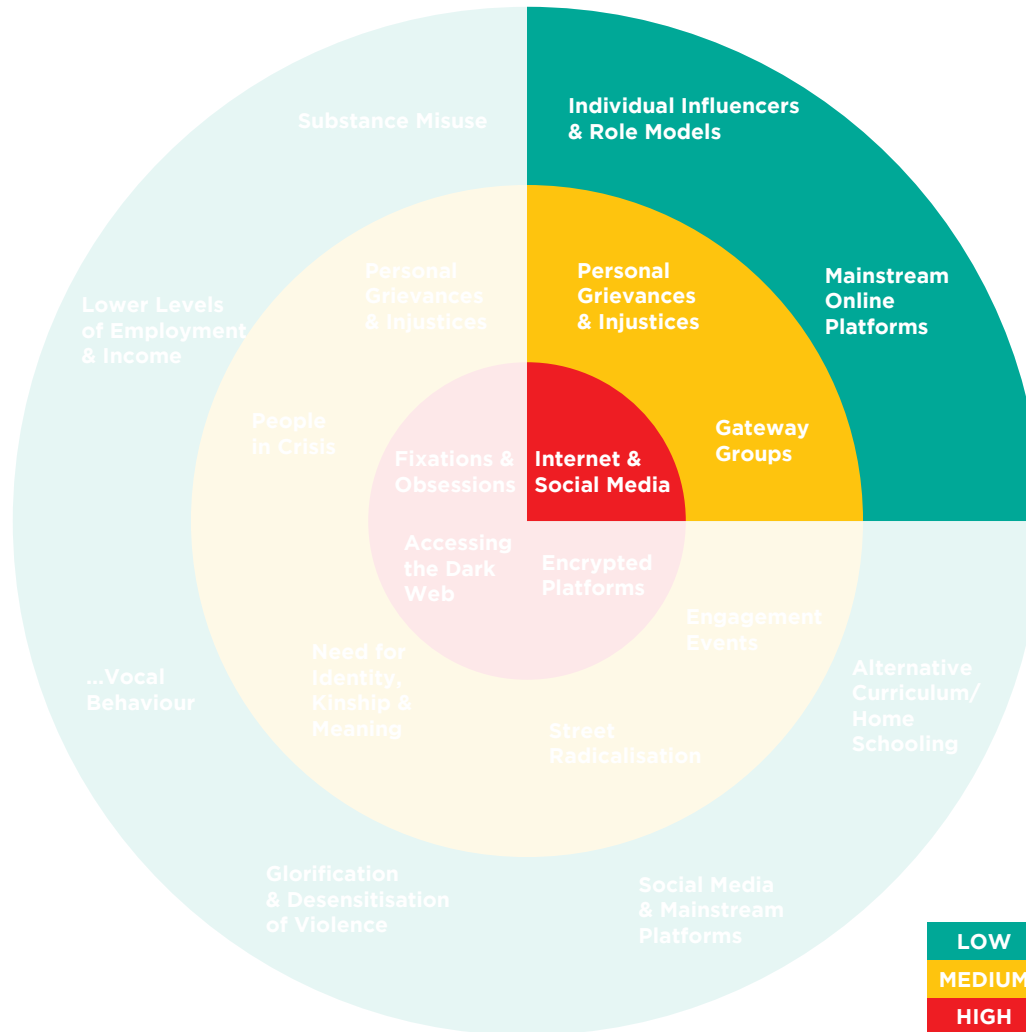
- Individual social influencers moderate their content to avoid disruption and detection. They tailor their messaging to appeal to younger audiences by focusing on popular narratives and discord. Framing their content as relatable 'life advice' establishes their foothold as role models
- How do influencers do it: Using mainstream platforms and media sites, to share everyday experiences and distorting it to more extreme/concerning narratives, e.g., anti-LGBT messaging

Gateway Groups

- Gateway Groups: Exposure to established radical groups often acts as a catalyst to adopt more concerning views. The network and relationships can provide avenues to access more radical content. These groups moderate their activities to avoid breaking the law

Internet & Social Media

- Recently, unrestricted access to the internet and social media has increased. Its global reach and the easily accessible content has facilitated the exploitation of those vulnerable individuals engaging in concerning narratives
- Groups are exploiting the general lack of oversight, safety and anonymity of online spaces
- Extremists adopt similar engagement techniques as popular social media influencers. By using mainstream social media platforms, radical influencers share material that isn't illegal or breaches TACT regulations. As such the content has the potential to draw individuals into more concerning material



YouTube and Facebook are visited by +41m people in UK

2019 – 2020 Prevent refs by age group

TOTAL	AGE GROUP
178	under 15
233	15 to 20
212	21 to 30
151	31 to 30
69	41 to 50
47	51 to 60
14	61+



Games were played online by 59% of 5-15s in 2019

59%



Online gaming is most prevalent between the ages of 12 and 24



Enablers

Alternative Curriculum/Home Schooling

- Groups offer their own curriculum which aligns to their world views. They encourage parents to remove their children from mainstream education to filter out views that oppose their own

Engagement Events

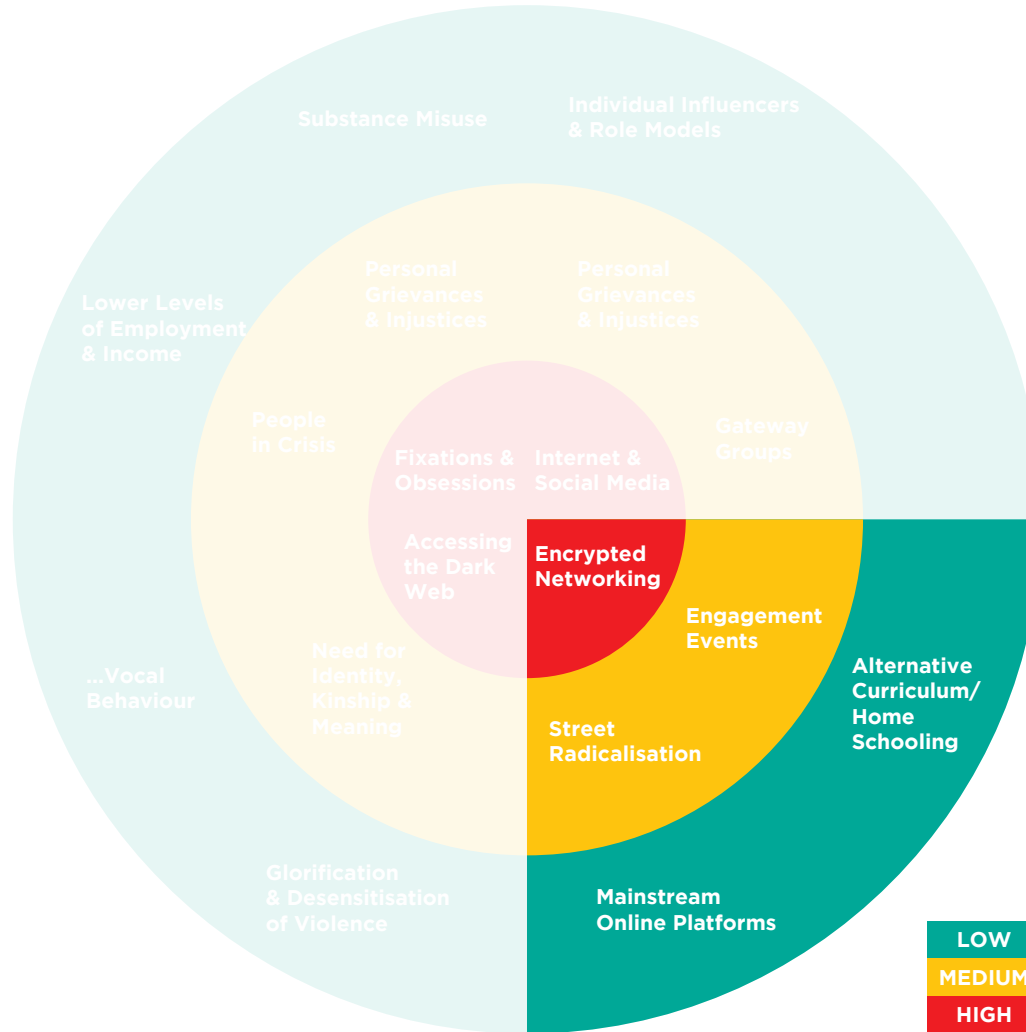
- Radical groups are beginning to adopt a form of community-based activity. Face-to-face engagement events such as hikes, offer an opportunity for more open discussions and sharing of views with like-minded individuals

Street Radicalisation

- Engagement through in-person events and street radicalisation, e.g., attending incendiary speeches and discussions, can be seen as a desire to interact with radical groups in a real world environment and away from the safety of online spaces

Mainstream Online Platforms

- Online spaces remain a key way to access extremist content across all themes. Mainstream platforms like Twitter and Telegram have been used to make extremist content widely available. Forums and social media channels remain an outlet that provides 'a safe place' to engage in such activity
- Social Media and Mainstream Platforms are often where content is initially distributed. Engagement can escalate to more encrypted forms of networking and communication, where the majority of extremist and hard-line content is often shared and discussed. This can enable the development of more concerning behaviour



UK internet average online each day



January 2020



April 2020



Behaviours

Actively seek for Identity & Kinship

- Those experiencing a lack of identity may actively seek out a network or group where they can belong. Extremist networks online have provided this sense of identity and kinship, and can be attractive for those who are isolated and disillusioned from society

Vocal Behaviour

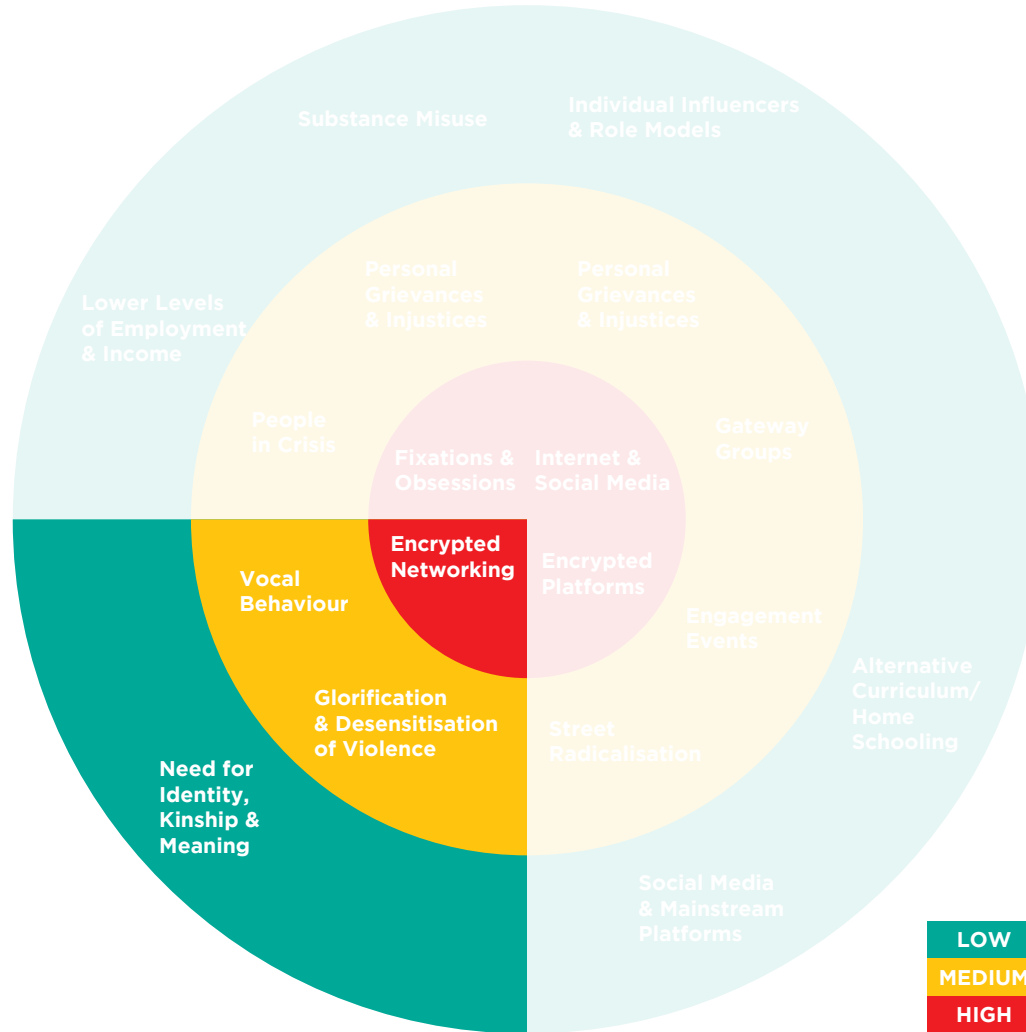
- Vocalising of racially aggravating/concerning ideas, or intentionally confrontational attitudes. This can be either online, in gaming environments, or in person
- Overt displays of some behaviours can be indicative of a vulnerable mind-set

Glorification & Desensitisation to Violence

- The sharing of some content around young groups in schools, e.g., beheading videos, is a behaviour of concern. This has been linked to curiosity, peer-pressure or a misunderstanding of the severity of the content

Encrypted Networking

- Usage of encrypted platforms (on the Dark Web and Virtual Private Networks (VPN) allow individuals who are technologically aware to hide their identity and actions online
- The increased use of platforms that conceal the identity of its users, and the 'hyper-secrecy' of an individuals behaviour can be of concern
- It is becoming common for individuals to use encrypted messaging platforms to share terrorist material in an unsuspecting format to avoid detection, e.g. gaming guides



Far Right actors have sought to encourage other online users to deliberately infect Jews and Muslims

415
Prevent referrals for Islamist Extremism

55%
of referrals adopted to Channel are aged between 15-30