

Evidence-Based Approach to Preventing Radicalisation and Supporting the De-Radicalisation of Young Men

“This Council unequivocally condemns the recent knife attack and expresses its solidarity with those affected;

- further condemns attempts to exploit this or any other serious crime to inflame racial tensions, spread hatred or justify violence against minority communities;
- notes with alarm the growing challenge of far-right, misogynistic and xenophobic radicalisation among young men, and recognises that children and young people, as they develop their identity and seek belonging and purpose, can be particularly vulnerable to radicalisation;
- recognises that many young men are drawn towards extremist ideas not through deep ideological commitment, but through a search for belonging, respect, identity and community, particularly where they experience isolation, disadvantage or poverty;
- acknowledges the role that far-right radicalisation has played in racist violence and disorder in our city and expresses alarm at the disturbing rise in recorded hate crimes and incidents;
- expresses concern that, without effective early intervention, more young men will be vulnerable to individuals and organisations which deliberately exploit grievance, alienation and insecurity to spread hatred and prejudice;
- calls on the Executive Office and Department of Justice to develop a new, evidence-based approach to preventing radicalisation and supporting the de-radicalisation of young men, drawing on international best practice and developed in partnership with experts and practitioners in education, youth work and community development;
- further calls for this approach to go beyond traditional forms of outreach and engage young people in the spaces where radicalisation increasingly takes place, including social media, online communities and gaming platforms.”

Proposer: Councillor Whyte

Seconder: Councillor de Faoite