



CASE STUDY

Exit Hate UK, Vulnerable Support Champions

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OVERVIEW

Vulnerable Support Champions is a community-based train-the-trainer project targeting frontline practitioners, including support workers, teachers and carers working with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The project employs a mixture of in-person and online training sessions tailored to beneficiaries' needs and responsibilities. Led by former far-right extremists, the sessions use the lived experience of the facilitators and case studies to explore the radicalisation process, thereby supporting frontline practitioners to safeguard vulnerable individuals in their care from far-right grooming and exploitation.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Practitioner Training Sessions – These 2-hour sessions combine presentations, collective discussion activities and case studies to explore the recruitment tactics of far-right extremists with small groups of 15–25 beneficiaries. Participants learn about the complexities of extremist involvement, the psychological and social factors that underpin radicalisation and how to safeguard vulnerable individuals in their care. The training sessions also signpost beneficiaries to support services where they can seek assistance and report radicalisation concerns.

BENEFICIARIES

- 86 teachers
- 128 frontline practitioners
- 200 carers
- 132 support workers
- 16 boroughs

PROJECT RESULTS

32%

capacity & intention to safeguard vulnerable individuals from far-right extremism

willingness to report suspected cases of radicalisation to authorities

24%

TESTIMONIAL

'We came out of the training with greater insight and knowledge to help us support vulnerable clients we work with to remain safe and be more vigilant to signs of grooming and exploitation. Managers feel more confident to support staff in this area and know how to signpost resources and services.' – Beneficiary

'Overall, this was a great training experience; it's always helpful to hear from someone who has had lived experience as people are more likely to respond.' – Beneficiary