

Former MI6 chief accuses Muslim leaders of being 'reluctant' to deal with extremism

Muslim community leaders should be more pro-active in dealing with the threat of Islamic extremism, the former head of MI6 has said, as he accused them of being "reluctant" to address the issue.

Sir Richard Dearlove, who led Britain's Secret Intelligence Service from 1999 until 2004, said that the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan means those working in counter-radicalisation will need to be more vigilant.

But he said that it is "absolutely essential" that Muslim leaders play a role in educating youngsters and ensuring that extremists are not "trying to distort and mislead the thinking" of young people.

"If you are looking at Islamist extremism, the Islamic community should be dealing with it themselves and there is a reluctance for them to do so," Sir Richard told