



# Walsall Prevent Digest

## February 2022

Current Threat Level in the UK: SUBSTANTIAL– An Attack is Likely

### Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator

Just to reiterate what I have already mentioned in a recent E-Mail, Walsall Local Authority has recently received correspondence from the Home Office (Prevent Team) informing us that the terrorism threat in Walsall is now lower, relative to a number of other areas across England and Wales and as a consequence Walsall is no longer considered a 'priority area'. What this will mean in practice is that Home Office funding for project delivery from April 2022 onwards will cease and unless the relative threat changes significantly, it is unlikely Prevent Local Delivery will fund dedicated Prevent posts for Walsall 2023/24 onwards.

In terms of Prevent, Walsall is in a far better position now than it has been for a good many years, certainly with regards to risk & threat. However we must not become complacent simply because we are no longer listed as a priority area as established threats can - and possibly will - re-emerge at any given time.

Given the changes to funding from April 2022 we have taken the decision not to recruit a new Prevent Education Officer to replace Dave Chadwick leaving me to combine the roles of both Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer, continuing what I have been doing since Dave's departure. I am conscious that by no longer having a dedicated Prevent Education Officer in place there may be a concern that this may negatively impact on the support currently provided to the education sector in Walsall. I would like to take this opportunity to allay such fears by offering reassurance that this will not be the case.

In terms of staff training, i.e. Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP), nothing will really change other than the fact that the person delivering the training will be me as opposed to David Chadwick. As you may recall I was Prevent Education Officer prior to Dave being appointed in 2019 and I have retained a thorough understanding of the role together with the responsibilities within that role. As your Prevent lead can I also take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, it really is very much appreciated.

### Next Walsall Schools Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Meeting

As you can imagine it has been something of a busy period quite recently, however, I remain keen to organise another Walsall Schools Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Meeting in the coming months. There are a number of things still to be organised including, date, venue, guest speakers – oh and of course the subject of biscuits (yes, I remember the last time!!). Naturally, I will provide you an update at the earliest opportunity.



Walsall Council

## West Midlands Police CTU, Prevent Team are remain heavily engaged with the very successful Youth Café Events here in Walsall.

The photograph was recently taken at Al-Aqsa Mosque with PC Akhlaq & PC Lal delivering a Youth Café. The feedback received from Israr Hussain, Al-Aqsa mosque Walsall, was extremely positive:-

**'West Midlands Police,**

*On behalf of Al-Aqsa mosque and the local community we would like to thank West Midlands Police and in particular PC 1145 Akhlaq & PC 20719 Lal, who delivered a brilliant workshop. PC Akhlaq was ever helpful and informative from initially organising right up to the delivery point. On the day the youth and the community who attended seemed very focused and asked many questions at the end showing how engaged they were throughout the presentation. We know some of the youth took some positive notes back and even asked to bring friends along if we were to do this again. Once again thank you so much and are highly recommending this work shop to other community members'.*



### Useful Resources

#### Terrorism and the Mind: The Mental Health Frontline

This [podcast](#) from BBC Sounds takes a look at the debate around mental health and extremism, including how people with mental health issues are managed through Prevent.

#### Tareena Shakhil on Woman's Hour

An interesting [discussion](#) with Tareena Shakhil, the first British woman to be found guilty of joining ISIS, on Woman's Hour.

#### New Lines Magazine article on the future of ISIS

The editor of New Lines, Hassan Hassan, [takes a look](#) at how ISIS has evolved and the potential impacts of its leader's death last week.

#### ConnectFutures video

Last week, we were pleased to see ConnectFutures resharing a video from a few years ago on their [social media](#), where they speak with Yasmin, whose job was to recruit other women to join extremist organisations, and who now works to dissuade young people from following a similar path.



### Walsall Prevent Web page

The Walsall Prevent Webpage can be located on our Safer Walsall Partnership external website. The site is live and the Prevent page can be accessed via the below link:-

[www.saferwalsallpartnership.co.uk/prevent](http://www.saferwalsallpartnership.co.uk/prevent)

**For Information, Support or Guidance around Prevent, or should you have any queries, concerns or are looking to make a referral, please do not hesitate to contact me...**



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