

Walsall Prevent Digest

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



Introduction - Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator

Welcome to our first monthly 'Prevent Digest'

Both Dave and I very much hope you are all keeping yourselves safe and well.

Like the picture? No air brushing required here!

The idea of this and forthcoming newsletters is to keep you abreast of Prevent related activity/information both nationally and locally.

Although we are still required to work from home, we both remain contactable on a daily basis. Most of you will already have our contact details, however, just in case, our contact details are available at the end of this newsletter.

Message from Dave Chadwick, Prevent Education Officer

With an unexpected and unprecedented shift in the way that many of us work. We are having to find innovative ways to achieve our outcomes. While our focus over the last few months has naturally shifted, many of us have been working from home while home schooling our own children and learning how to keep ourselves safe from an unseen danger. When it comes to safeguarding young people however, the situation we find ourselves in now only creates more opportunities for those that wish to exploit our young people. With many of the schools closed for the last few months, we have seen more and more young people spending longer hours each day on the internet, many of which with little or no supervision. During this time, we have seen a vast amount of activity from those aligned with extremist groups using covid19 hashtags on social media, and creating attractive quotes to gain favour.

It is important that staff continue to understand PREVENT, and how to spot the warning signs, report concerns. The PREVENT team, both Niall Markham and myself have trained around 5000 professionals over the last 12 months, and nearly 7000 young people. We have always been and remain committed to providing training around PREVENT to all schools.

In an attempt to move with the times and pretend that we are still young, we will be offering online PREVENT training to schools through Microsoft Teams. If your school is in need of a PREVENT update please feel free to contact me to discuss this.



Walsall Council

Accessible Digital Safety During COVID-19 Document (refers to recent E-mail)

You may recall I very recently sent out a message via the Council Daily Brief, plus an E-Mail to all Prevent SPOCs, informing you of a new **Online Radicalisation and Digital Safety Resource** developed by Government, the Prevent Network and our external partners. If you haven't received this resource and would like a copy, please feel free to contact Dave or myself via E-mail.

Safeguarding Concerns

All schools and other education providers are aware that appropriate sharing of information where there are concerns about children and young people - in line with DfE and other Government guidance - strengthens our ability and opportunity to keep children safe. This applies between Local Authority officers too and we would like to draw your attention to our close working relationship.



Independent Review Update

A quick reminder in case you missed the news that the government has included a measure in the Counter Terrorism and Sentencing Bill to remove the 12th August deadline for the Prevent reviewer to report back. The review will still be going ahead. The press release for the new Bill is here if you'd like more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/14-year-minimum-jail-terms-for-most-dangerous-terror-offenders>



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 us...

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