

Walsall Prevent Digest

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

Introduction – Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator

You will recall from last month's Prevent Digest we invited West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit to give you something of an insight into their work in the Walsall Community. In this month's edition I am pleased to incorporate something similar from Walsall CCG.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of this partnership approach to Prevent here in Walsall with each partner having such an important role to play in implementing The Prevent Duty. It is worth mentioning that in addition to working closely with our statutory bodies, i.e. Police, Health, Local Authority we also work just as closely with Probation Service, Housing, DfE, Public Health, West Midlands Fire Service - the list goes on.

Everyone has a role to play in preventing young people and vulnerable adults becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Health Exploitation Group – Christine Harris, Interim Designated Nurse Adult Safeguarding



The all age exploitation hub has become operational in Walsall and to ensure the profile of exploitation is raised across the health system, a specific sub group for health professionals has been established which covers adults and children.

All areas of exploitation are focused upon in this initiative, including those vulnerable people subject to exploitation through radicalisation and it is expected the group will form close collaborative links with Prevent in Walsall.

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Walsall Council

SKIPS Educational Virtual Safety Net

Developed in collaboration with Birmingham City Prevent team, Safety Net is proving to be a vital way of keeping children across the city safe online, particularly as we adapt to living and working in unusual circumstances during COVID 19. Using live webinars, remote learning and family resources, Safety Net supports schools, community groups and frontline practitioners in teaching parents how to keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and online gaming.

Safety Net delivers 60-minute hard hitting live webinar sessions to parents, which expose the real, unseen and often hidden dangers children face online. It addresses methods used to trick and groom children and educates parents on how to help tackle online radicalisation and

extremism. To help confidently share their learning at home, Safety Net provides parents with a 'Safety Net' book – this colourful, engaging content is proven to help families to have open and honest discussions on tricky topics such as keeping safe online.

Safety Net is now being adopted by many schools, local authorities and multi-agency partnerships across the UK, and Birmingham Children's Trust's Prevent lead Colvin White commented that "The Safety Net programme has brought valuable resources for enhancing learning about online vulnerability during the pandemic".

Skips have produced an [informational video](#) which gives further detail.



Shout Out UK Extremism & Media Literacy Programme

Through their Extremism and Media Literacy course, [Shout Out UK](#) give young people the opportunity to confront the issues of right wing extremism and radicalisation in a classroom environment, teaching them to think critically about what they see online. The course thoroughly covers the British Values integral to the Prevent programme by teaching students to understand democracy, the rule of law, and the importance of tolerance between groups of people, such as different faith groups. Shout Out UK also addresses the importance of rehabilitation and prevention, demonstrating the need for an approach to extremism that goes beyond just punishment.

Students are taught to spot problematic online behaviours and equipped with the critical thinking skills, emotional resilience and practical tools to tackle it themselves. The lessons are applied in the context of the new forums of extremism that will be familiar to the students, such as YouTube and Discord, where anonymity fuels the normalisation of expressing extreme thoughts and content.

As well as referring to examples that resonate with young people, Shout Out UK also structure our delivery to be as interactive and relevant as possible, relying on animations, quizzes and social media case studies to facilitate open dialogue. These methods translate well to the new pandemic teaching environment: we have used virtual workshops and the resources on our e-platform to deliver this content online.



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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