

Walsall Prevent Digest

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

Introduction – Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator

There has been a slight change in the way we are asking you to make **Prevent related referrals into both MASH and Adult Services.**

In terms of referrals into **Children's Services** - and as per current procedure, we continue to ask that you use the recognised MARF (Multi-Agency Referral Form). However and in line with other areas of the UK from this point on, we are also asking you to submit the nationally recognised 'Prevent related Referral Form' which provides all agencies with a consistent approach to making a Prevent related referral.



The form is structured in such a way that it prompts the referrer to consider what information is required to allow for the most effective assessment of threat, risk AND vulnerability.

For staff working within **Adult Social Care** the new Prevent Referral Form will replace the existing form currently used for Prevent related 'Adult Referrals'.

If you have a concern about anyone being radicalised, becoming involved in extremism, supporting terrorism or displaying vulnerability then you should submit a referral as below:-

Child Referrals	MASH@walsall.gov.uk and CTU_GATEWAY@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Adult Referrals	initialintake@walsall.gov.uk and CTU_GATEWAY@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

We very much hope that you will find the new referral form assists you in capturing all the necessary information we initially require. Should you require any further information or support regarding the new form or Prevent in general, then please contact Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator (details below)

This new National Prevent Referral Form has been officially signed off by The National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ) and Home Office.

Prevent Web Page

We have very recently developed a Prevent Webpage on our Safer Walsall Partnership external website. The site is live and the Prevent page can be accessed via the below link:-

<https://www.saferwalsallpartnership.co.uk/prevent>



Walsall Council

Counter Terrorism Police, West Midlands and provides an update around terrorist activity in general, plus a focus on Walsall

What's been happening?

After a fairly quiet year until now, the last few months have seen an escalation in terrorist activity and a corresponding rise in the Terrorism Threat Level.

There have been seven major incidents in Europe in as many weeks which were predominantly in the Islamist thematic and conducted by lone actors without substantial connections to any defined Islamist group.



Outside of the UK and Europe, the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) have been gaining territory and expanding their influence in Afghanistan and along the Pakistan border area. This has escalated to threaten the Afghanistan peace process as well as targeting elements ISKP deem to be against Islam. In the United States, the Presidential election and continued racial tensions has brought several White Nationalist and White Supremacist groups to the fore. Conspiracies and false stories are spreading amongst all ideological groups including those in the Left Wing, such as ANTIFA aligned groups, and Single Issue ideologies, such as INCEL.

What are we up to?

We are currently in the process of writing the next Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) which we are aiming to deliver in February/March 2021. The overall CT threat remains lower than previous years and much of this is down to preventative activity by the Walsall partnership. Prevent referrals have decreased but by less than anticipated with Walsall decreasing less than the average for the WMP area. This information is invaluable in constructing an accurate understanding and enables me to gain a real insight into Walsall CT threat.

The challenges laid upon us by COVID-19 have resulted in an increasing uncertainty around extremist activity, particularly radicalising influences. Social circles have shrunk and people have been drawn more onto social networking with its echo chamber effect and reducing the moderating influences such as teachers, work colleagues or wider friendships. People are exposed to unchallenged conspiracy theories and ill-informed opinions which become fact through repetition and almost impossible to challenge. The result being increasingly divided communities and escalating negativity between ideological and political groups. This is occurring across the entire spectrum of extremism and something all those involved with disrupting extremism should be aware of.

Prevent Survey Findings

Research commissioned by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT) as part of their continuous evaluation processes to ensure that Prevent is as effective, informed and transparent has revealed the following:-

- 58% of the general public viewed the programme favourably compared to just 8% who viewed it unfavourably
- When asked to describe Prevent, the most commonly selected answer amongst respondents (46%) was that it was a safeguarding programme
- Both teachers and healthcare professionals benefit significantly from training; confidence in spotting the signs of radicalisation and making a referral increased by 20-30% in those that had received training.
- The results showed that as knowledge about Prevent increases so too does support for the programme, and in turn likelihood that individuals will seek help for someone they are worried about.
- While the results show that Prevent is widely supported amongst all demographics of those already aware of the programme, there is more work to do in increasing awareness, improving access to training for professionals, and broadening understanding of the safeguarding role that Prevent plays in addressing all forms of extremism.

For more information refer to [‘Prevent Public Knowledge and Interactions’](#) survey on Gov.UK



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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