



Kent and Medway, Prevent Education Officer Newsletter

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Welcome to this edition of the PEO Newsletter. This is the first newsletter of this academic year and may I take this opportunity to welcome you all back after the summer break. I hope you have had an opportunity for some down time as I am sure this will, as always, be a very busy term. In preparation for the new term, I know many schools are looking to update policies and procedures. This newsletter will contain several links that you may find useful in updating your current Prevent Risk Assessments. Please do get in touch with Jill or me if this is something you would like to discuss in more detail.

Our support offer for education continues to be **free to access for all education settings** in Kent and Medway and includes:

- Advice and guidance on policy and procedures including self-evaluation and risk assessment templates.
- Information and insight about the local counter terrorism risk profile.
- Tailored support and responses to concerns or referrals around at-risk individuals.
- A wide range of contextual staff training sessions that have been designed to reflect the local risk profile as well as those faced by children and young people online.
- Pupil engagement sessions and curriculum materials for all key stages.
- Parent engagement workshops focused on managing online risks around, hate, fake news, and extremism and how to help build digital resilience in children.

If you would like to book a training session as part of your CPD in the coming academic year or would like to find out more about how we can support your approach to tackling hate and extremism and the [Prevent Duty in education](#), please get in touch.

The UK threat level remains at Substantial meaning an attack is likely. It is important to always remain vigilant and to report anything which appears out of place or suspicious. Your first response should always be to call police if you see something that is of concern.

Changes to PEO Staffing

Some of you may be aware that PEO Jill Allen will be leaving the Team this November to take on a new role within KCC. Jill has been instrumental in supporting schools and young people across South and East Kent with the Prevent duty and how to safeguard young people. I would personally like to thank Jill for everything and wish her every success in her new role. The PEO role for this area has been advertised and we will bring you details of the new officer as they are appointed.

Changes to Staff Training & Student Workshops 2023/24

We are currently taking bookings for staff, parent, and student workshops into 2024. Training is free and can be delivered virtually to reach a wider audience. All training requests will be subject to prioritization based upon local intelligence, PEO capacity, and other factors. If you would like to know more about the sessions available, please contact Sally or Jill who will be happy to discuss your requirements.

The Home Office e-learning resource has recently been updated and is a good way for staff to get a basic understanding of Prevent or a refresher. You can access the resource free of charge www.gov.uk/prevent-duty-training

Changes to Staff Training

We have recently updated our training offer to include some new sessions that may be of interest to you. Please refer to the new training offer included below. Due to the significant number of settings covered, we have changed to an online delivery where settings have smaller staff numbers. These sessions will be the same as the face-to-face content via Teams. Larger settings can request a Teams input if they feel this is beneficial for staff reach.

We are now also offering the opportunity for staff to dial into standard Prevent Training online. This will assist in cases where staff have been unable to join in with their main school training dates, or for new staff members. The current dates and bookings are available here: <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/training/multi-agency/kent-and-medway-education-settings-workshop-to-raise-awareness-of-prevent-safeguarding-and-local-context>

Student Workshops

We have many requests to deliver student workshops. Due to the number of settings in Kent & Medway it is simply not possible for us to deliver in every setting. It is also important that schools are embedding British Values and Prevent across the curriculum and not as a one-off session. We are always happy to share resources and signpost to websites that you may find useful in discussing topics. Where PEO's can offer in person student workshops these will be to schools who have completed the

Kent and Medway PEO staff training. This is to ensure that staff are aware of the current local picture and can support any safeguarding issues that may arise following student sessions.

The following organisations can offer student sessions that you can book directly:

<https://equaliteach.co.uk/>

<https://www.standupeducation.org/>

Please get in touch with your relevant PEO to discuss your training individual training requests. You can find the current PEO training offer via the QR code below.



Prevent Duty Guidance Refresh for Education Settings

The Prevent duty guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance> has been refreshed and updated to reflect several recommendations of the Independent Review of Prevent. This includes several changes to the guidance for education settings. There are no new legal requirements or additional responsibilities for education settings, and changes aren't anticipated to come into effect until 31st December 2023 at the earliest. You can read more about what the key changes are, how they affect different phases of education and what support is available by reading the 'how we're safeguarding learners from radicalisation' blog post from the Department for Education.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/07/how-were-safeguarding-students-and-learners-from-radicalisation/>

Prevent in Education Case Studies

The DFE have published some school-based case studies for prevent on the Gov.uk website. These will be useful for settings to see the journey from referral to Channel and influence best practice. These can also be included in your internal staff training sessions.

Follow the link below to access the documents:

[Case studies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Attendance at Kent and Medway Channel Panel

Schools continue to be a pivotal part of the Prevent referral process. Your engagement is key to ensuring information is shared to assist in safeguarding individuals at risk of radicalisation. Education settings have a statutory duty to share information where they feel a young person is at risk of radicalisation. When a referral is heard at Channel Panel it is imperative that all professionals with information about that young person shares relevant and timely updates. It is therefore essential that a representative from your education setting attends the panel when invited. All Kent and Medway Panels are held via Teams, making it easier for schools to dial in at an appointed time. Please ensure that you respond to any request to attend the Channel Panel and send a representative from the safeguarding team to each meeting.

Kent Police Op Chalkboard: Operation for School Trespass Incidents

The school, should contact Kent police on **999** and quote **Op Chalkboard** in the following circumstances:

- There are trespasses on school grounds who are posing a serious threat to pupils, staff, or parents.
- There are visitors to the school who are or are perceived to be posing a threat to pupils, staff, or parents.
- Any other incident occurs whereby there is an immediate risk to the physical safety of any person legitimately on school premises.

The school should provide the following information wherever possible:

- Descriptions of offenders and identities if known.
- Details of any weapons being carried.
- Details of the location of the suspects or direction of travel.
- Details of any person requiring medical attention.

If the above criteria are not met and it is not an emergency, I would still encourage the school to report the matter to Kent police using **101**. Trespasses on school premises is a concern and understand that each school has a 'lockdown' process if they feel the need to implement this. Kent police take all matters seriously and, want to work closely with partners to tackle issues being experienced. **Chief Inspector 10037 Stuart Paul**

Educate Against Hate new interactive calendar



New Resource

The Educate Against Hate 23-24 calendar is now live!

The Educate Against Hate calendar highlights significant anniversaries and celebration days, weeks and months, as well as key dates for the education sector, along with resource suggestions that will help you to discuss different themes and topics with your learners throughout the academic year.

Over the last couple of months, the Educate Against Hate team have been working hard on pulling together the 23-24 iteration of the calendar to ensure it's even more useful to the sector than the 22-23 version, this includes now publishing the calendar as a live webpage with interactive videos and links.

The 23-24 calendar is now available for use on the Educate Against Hate website. Use the button below to access it!

[Access the 23-24 Calendar here](#)

Our parent toolkit has lots of information how to keep children safe online. Scan the QR code below to access the latest copy of our parent and carer tool kit or email Jill or Sally for a print or electronic copy of the full toolkit.

A straight forward guide to protecting children from online hate, extremism, and fake news



The pandemic has meant that children are spending more time than ever before learning and socialising online. Parents are juggling new technology alongside working and navigating the risks children face online. **Scan the QR code below to access the full interactive guide** which has links to resources, advice, and information to help you:

- Understand the risks and issues.
- Know where to get help.
- Find resources.
- Develop practical strategies.
- Start conversations.
- Build your child's digital resilience.



A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.



Mark Twain

Embedding Prevent into the Curriculum

Does your curriculum address the risk of online radicalisation as part of a contextual safeguarding approach?

This new cross-curricular resource with Counter Terrorism Policing may be just what you need. [Act Early Stories](#) facilitates discussions on:

- **Grooming**
- **Indicators of exploitation**
- **Protective factors**
- **Peer-pressure and Identity**
- **Barriers to disclosure**



Read on or watch this quick newsletter overview

Each story has a video and slides featuring icebreakers, conversation starters and **cross-curricular activities that can be incorporated into literacy, drama and PSHE/RSHE** - so please share with curriculum leads. You can use the entire session or select individual activities, with guidance notes for experienced practitioners as well as those who may not be confident with the issues raised.

Session 1 looks at religious extremism, encouraging young people to consider how identity can be exploited to further an agenda





If you're worried that someone you know is being radicalised, visit actearlyuk.

LGFL DigiSafe®

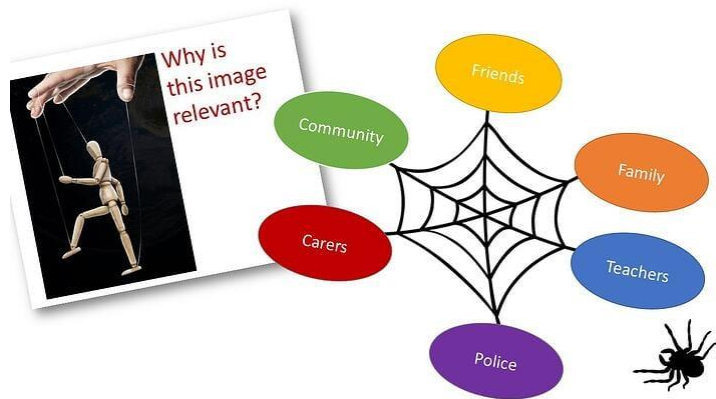
ACT

Activity Slides (PowerPoint)

Practitioner Guidance

Session 2 explores extreme right-wing narratives, online hate, disinformation, and the consequences of not challenging harmful behaviour

Session 3 unpicks the indicators of exploitation and protective factors through drama and literacy and tactics used for manipulation



As you know, steering people away from extremism is all about safeguarding. Please read the Practitioner Guidance and speak to your safeguarding lead before using the resource. Follow the link below to access the resources.

Find out more at actearlystories.lgfl.net

Free Anti-Discrimination workshops for secondary schools



Through interactive workshops and by drawing on the unique knowledge of many partners in the Hate Crime field, Stand Up! empowers young people to act against all forms of discrimination, racism, antisemitism, and anti-Muslim hate, whilst developing their sense of social responsibility to their local communities and British society.

Workshops are offered **free of charge** and can be delivered in person or virtually in your setting. Click [here](#) You can find out more and book directly online.

Prevent in the News

Number of teenagers being radicalised for terror online rises five-fold in four years.

Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes said some teenagers were downloading instructions for printing 3D firearms and bomb-making equipment in a “new and emerging threat” that risked bringing extremist violence to the streets.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/teenagers-terrorism-police-matt-jukes-online-b1098447.html>

'I was radicalised by the far right aged 15'

A former right-wing extremist has described how he was radicalised as a 15-year-old boy in the wake of the Manchester Arena bombing.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-64761893>

Making a Prevent Referral

The National Prevent Referral form is to be used for all referrals. You can find the form [here](#)

- Once completed the form should be emailed directly to prevent.referrals@kent.police.uk

Please ensure you include all known information and provide as much detail as possible about the person you are referring. Ensure all narratives are recorded verbatim regardless

of the upsetting nature of the content. Please get in touch with your PEO if you would like to discuss any aspect of the referral.

Engaging parents in the referral process

Following your own schools safeguarding processes, Prevent referrals can be submitted with or without consent. DfE Guidance specifies that you should be 'open and honest with the individual (and/or their family) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so'. The information sharing decision (the referral) should be based on consideration of the safety, well-being of the individual and risk and threat to others who may be affected by their actions. Where consent isn't sought the decision for not doing so should be recorded.

Therefore, if appropriate, when discussing your concerns with the parents, you can advise that Prevent is a safeguarding process that may look at interventions to assist their child. This is subject to case-by-case risk assessment. At all times we would advise contact with your PEO.

Engagement in the Channel Process

Once a referral has been submitted you may be contacted to discuss the referral in more detail. It is essential that the DSL or Headteacher engages with the process and responds to the information gathering requests that are sent out. This is to ensure that vital information is established to enable the referral to potentially be discussed at the Channel Panel. If your attendance is requested at the Panel, it is imperative that you attend. This is a partnership process, and as the referrer your input is key to Panel understanding the risks and vulnerabilities an individual may pose to themselves or others.

Contact Details

Education Officers

- Jill Allen (South & East Kent) jill.allen@kent.gov.uk
- Sally Green (Medway North & West Kent) sally.green2@kent.gov.uk

KCC Assistant Director Contest and Serious Organised Crime (SOC)

- Nick Wilkinson - nick.wilkinson@kent.gov.uk

Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator

- Jess Harman - jess.harman@kent.gov.uk

Community Engagement Officer

- Georgia Dawson – georgia.dawson@kent.gov.uk

Prevent Referrals

- preventreferrals@kent.police.uk

We hope you have found the information in this newsletter helpful. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future Newsletters or difficulty accessing any of the links, please get in touch.



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