



Prevent Education Officer

Kent and Medway

Newsletter September 2020

Sally Green

03000 413439

Sally.green2@kent.gov.uk

I hope this Newsletter finds you well as you all return for the new school year. I appreciate that this return to school is unprecedented and have seen for myself the extraordinary measures that have been made to ensure this process is as smooth as possible. It has been great to see some of you again, whether via Teams, Zoom or face to face as we gradually start some new kind of “normal”.

The past few months have been challenging in many ways. The threat from extremism is always present, and groups were quick to adapt and use the pandemic for their own cause. Conspiracy theories and hate speech populated the online space from numerous platforms. Some of the students in your setting may have been accessing this information and it is important to have sight of this as they return to school. Lockdown has been the perfect opportunity for extremist groups or individuals to exploit the curiosity, vulnerabilities and passions of young people for their own agendas.

The DfE’s briefing for schools and colleges has now been published. This is a briefing note for senior leaders, teachers and safeguarding leads at schools and further education providers on how extremists are using COVID-19 to promote disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories. This non-statutory advice from the Department for Education has been produced to provide a short summary of the extremist response to COVID-19, highlighting the additional radicalisation risks for children and young people and suggested actions for settings to take.

Hopefully this guidance will provide an overview regarding the type of rhetoric seen from extremist groups. It is also important to understand the wider impact this may have had on our young people and what we can do to support them moving forward. Please share this newsletter with other senior leaders, safeguarding and subject leaders such as PSHE, RE & Citizenship. If you have any questions or need advice, please do not hesitate to contact me direct via email or phone.

[Full Briefing: COVID-19 Prevent Guidance For Schools and Further Education Providers](#)

[Short Blog Post: Extremists are targeting young people during the pandemic – so what can you do to tackle this in the classroom?](#)

[New PEO Jill Allen](#)

I would like to introduce you to our new PEO Jill Allen. Jill joins the team as an additional post which means there will be two of us now covering the county and Medway. I will be covering Medway, North Kent and West Kent settings and Jill will cover South and East Kent. We very much look forward to working in partnership to offer advice and support to schools in Kent and Medway. You can get in touch with either of us on the following emails

sally.green2@kent.gov.uk Jill.allen@kent.gov.uk

[Joint Kent & Medway Channel panel](#)

We are now operating one joint Channel Panel for all Kent and Medway cases.

[Staff Training](#)

All staff should complete Prevent training. The link to the free Home Office Training can be found here.

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

There is no set time frame to revisit the training as the guide should be how confident your staff feel in carrying out their Prevent duties. I am also pleased to be able to offer direct staff training sessions once again. These sessions are free to schools and can be delivered face to face or virtual subject to requirements. I am also happy to look at a train the trainer model should schools be interested. Please email me to discuss your individual setting training requirements.



Stand Up! was established in 2016 to provide anti-discrimination education, with a focus on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate, to young people in mainstream 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 as a whole. You can find out more here <https://www.standupeducation.org/>

Stand Up! core anti-discrimination workshop - Year 9+

Stand up are currently offering their anti-discrimination workshop online, with a focus on racism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate. The session is highly interactive and can be delivered easily via Zoom for up to 50 young people at a time. The session covers historical and current examples of discrimination and breaks down stereotypes of the Muslim and Jewish communities in a safe and respectful environment. The aim is to empower young people to think critically and stand up against all forms of hatred.

Stand Up! media and propaganda follow up workshop - Year 10+

This workshop is offered as a follow up session for students who have undertaken the core Stand Up! workshop. The focus of the session is to look at the speak of false information and misrepresentations of communities, the session also provides young people on specific tools to think critically and report hate speech online.

Anti-bullying session - Year 8

A session adapted for a younger cohort of students with a focus on racial bullying. A use of scenario's provides young people with the space to express how they would react in different incidents, with the facilitators guiding the conversation to provide information for young people on how to say safe and the best way to deal with a bullying situation as well as signposting them to organisations who can support them further.

The workshops above are **free** and can be delivered in person or online. Please contact me direct if you would like further information sally.green2@kent.gov.uk

[A Mothers story](#)

I recently attended some training where a mother spoke to us about her experiences of her son being groomed into the Far Right. It was humbling to hear her experiences and how ultimately her son ended up in prison for terrorist related offences. It brought home to me the importance of noticing those small changes in behaviour and sharing the information. The *Let's Talk About It* website has some excellent reminders of what to look out for in behaviours that could be a Prevent Safeguarding concern.

<https://www.itai.info/spotting-the-signs/>

Make sure you are in the know of the signs of Radicalisation.

[Possible Signs of Radicalisation & Extremism](#)

It can be difficult to identify when a young person may be being drawn into extremism. We know that Radicalisation is a process, but that may look very different for everyone. Below is an idea of signs that you may notice. This is not an exhaustive list and not all factors may be present. Remember that PREVENT is concerned with Safeguarding. As with all safeguarding concerns sometimes it is the professional instinct that something is not right that is the best guide.

Factors may include:

1. Talking positively about/spending time with people or groups who promote hate and violence.
2. Isolating themselves from family and friends.
3. Secretive about where they go and/or what they are doing.
4. Abusive, aggressive views, comments and threats towards certain groups of people (faith, ethnicity etc)
5. Fascination with weapons, chemicals, explosives, extremist or terrorist events
6. Trying to recruit or groom others to an extremist ideology.
7. Talking as if from a scripted speech.
8. Refusing to listen to other views - possibly confrontational.
9. Possession of violent extremist literature or viewing online.

[Media Updates](#)

Fifth of white non-Muslims believe that British culture is under threat from invasion’, poll shows

Exclusive: Research shows ‘Islamist and far-right ideas are resonating with young people in the UK’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslims-extremism-far-right-uk-british-culture-white-poll-b421631.html>



HITLER YOUTHS: THE RISE OF TEENAGE FAR RIGHT TERRORISTS



Hope not Hate produced a report examining how children are being lured into right wing groups online headed up by other teenagers. You can read the full report [here](#).

<https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2020/09/13/hitler-youths-the-rise-of-teenage-far-right-terrorists/>

[Prevent Referral form](#)

The National Prevent Referral form is to be used for all referrals. You can find the form here <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-and-crime-policies/contest/prevent>

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

Please ensure you include all known information and provide as much detail as possible about the person you are referring.

[Engaging parents](#)

It is important that you engage parents in the referral process wherever possible. Making a referral should be a transparent process to make sure parents are well informed as to the safeguarding aims of Prevent. Best practice would be to discuss your concerns with the parents and 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.

[Engagement in the Channel Process](#)

Once a referral has been submitted you may be contacted by the KCC Prevent Coordinator. 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.

You can find out more about the Channel Process by completing the Home Office online Channel training. It will take approx. 45mins and help you understand what happens at Channel. I would recommend all SLT and DSL's access this training:

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html

I hope you have found the information in this newsletter helpful. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future Newsletters, please get in touch.

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