



Prevent Education Officer

Kent and Medway

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We hope this newsletter finds you well. Jill and I are available to offer support and guidance to settings from Early Years to Secondary. I hope you find the contents of the Newsletter helpful.

#### Safeguarding and Prevent concerns.

As students return to the classroom many settings have experienced an increase in safeguarding concerns on numerous issues. The isolation caused by the pandemic has been wide reaching and impactful on young people. Increased time spent online has given opportunity to access information that young people may not have been able to process effectively. Extremist narrative continues to perpetuate online. As students begin to feel secure at school you may experience disclosure or discussion concerning this narrative. Jill and I are happy to discuss any concerns that may be raised on these matters. There is no such thing as a silly question! Please get on touch if we can assist you in any way.

## Stand Up Education Free Virtual Student Workshops

We are pleased that our colleagues at “Stand Up Education” are still able to offer FREE virtual workshops with secondary students. I was fortunate enough to join a Year 9 session recently and witness first-hand how well the students engaged with the subject matter. The facilitators were engaging and really encouraged debate around difficult subjects. Jill and I would be happy to join your setting on one of these virtual sessions. You can find out more in the attached flyers.

[info@standupeducation.org](mailto:info@standupeducation.org).



# Online Workshops

- Empowering young people to think critically and stand up against all forms of hatred
- Informal and interactive sessions which promotes student participation
- Creating a safe space online for students to have sensitive conversations
- All sessions are offered FREE of charge

“Many thanks for facilitating such a wonderful session. The students really enjoyed themselves ... It was lovely to see the students engaged and responding” - Teacher, Eden School for Girls, October 2020- Virtual Session

To book, email:  
[info@standupeducation.org](mailto:info@standupeducation.org)



**Anti-bullying workshop Year 8**

For a younger cohort, this session focuses on racial bullying.



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

Framed around a conversation about British Values and racism, this session takes a specific focus on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate and how to effectively tackle all forms of hate crime.



**Media and Propaganda workshop (advanced session) Year 12+**

A follow-on session for students who have participated in the anti-discrimination workshop. This in-depth session explores online hate, misinformation and fake news challenging students on the notion of free speech vs. hate speech.

## Prevent Education Officer training offer for schools.

We have developed a range of free training and engagement sessions for education staff, school governors and parents, plus children and young people (CYP), full details are outlined in the PDF document embedded below. The sessions are designed to address the local risk profile as well as national concerns and issues. The sessions are delivered free of charge to all settings, the workshops for CYP and parents have been designed to follow delivery of staff workshops. Please contact Jill and I direct if you would like to book a session.



Prevent Training for  
Education Settings.pdf

## Parent Toolkit

It is important that Parents are alerted to the signs of radicalisation and extremism and how this may present in young people. Jill has created a toolkit attached below that can be shared with parents in your settings. The toolkit offers useful tips and links to keeping young people safe online. Internet Matters have created a video that may be shared with parents to highlight grooming for extremism. It is important that parents are aware of this type of safeguarding risk. The links below can be sent out with your safeguarding information. <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/>



Parent toolkit\_online  
issues.pdf

## Act Early Campaign

The Act Early Campaign is an excellent information resource for parents and carers. It offers advice and support on how to have a conversation with their child if they have concerns. It also offers real life stories, signs and vulnerabilities and the option to report concerns. The link below can be sent out with your safeguarding information.

<https://actearly.uk/>

## Ofsted and Prevent.

We recently received some training from the DFE which included a presentation from a lead Ofsted Inspector. It was interesting to hear that

Ofsted consider proactive Prevent as given in all schools. It is presumed that all staff will have had Prevent training, but how does that look day to day? Ofsted are interested in seeing what reactive Prevent looks like in settings. Inspectors want to know how well schools respond to Prevent related incidents, and what measures are put in place to support parents and pupils? Prevent should be an integral part of all schools contextual safeguarding practices.

### Prevent Policy Updates.

It is important that your Safeguarding Policy includes relevant Prevent information. This should be displayed on your school website as part of your contextual safeguarding policy. Where a Prevent referral is received from an educational setting the PEO will review the schools open-source safeguarding policy to see what advice and support is needed. The PEO's can work with you to ensure that school policies are relevant and up to date. We have guidance documents we can send that will assist you in developing and workable self-assessment framework for your setting. Please contact the PEO for your area to arrange assistance with your policies.

### 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.
10. Joining online chatrooms where extreme narrative is shared.

You can find more information about the signs of Radicalisation in the following links:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/radicalisation#heading-top>

<https://educateagainsthate.com/signs-of-radicalisation/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/learn-about-it/>

#### New Video to use directly with students on far-right extremism.

A new video highlighting right wing extremism has been released on twitter from our colleagues at Shout Out UK. The animation is around the dangers of far-right extremism and online radicalisation, which aims to educate young people on how to stay resilient to such rhetoric.

#### **You can watch the animation**

**here:** [https://twitter.com/Shoutout\\_UK/status/1381543060316823554](https://twitter.com/Shoutout_UK/status/1381543060316823554)

#### Global Acts of Unity launches 'Unitees' student competition

Youth-focused tolerance campaign, [Global Acts of Unity](#) (GAU), has launched a creative competition, **Unitees**. It asks young people aged 14-18 from across the country to express what unity means to them by designing a t-shirt.

The competition is now open for submissions from schools, with supporting toolkits available for teachers to facilitate classroom learning on issues relating to extremism and division. On the Unitees website, students can take advantage of a free t-shirt making tool to create their designs. You can get your school contacts involved by sharing this information and sending them to the [Unitees website](#).

Selected designs will be awarded prizes towards their school and studies. The competition closes on **18 June 2021** and is run in association with the National Association for Teaching English (NATE).

### Additional information on GAU

Set up by Mike Haines OBE in honour of his brother David who was killed by Daesh in 2014, [Global Acts of Unity](#) tours the UK speaking to young people to encourage them to spread messages of tolerance and understanding in defiance of extremist narratives that seek to create community division. You can contact them directly should you wish to host a session.

### Media Updates

You may find the following news stories interesting and relevant to your work.

*When radicalization occurs in the living room and acts of terrorism no longer require complex planning, even teenagers can take part in them.*



*Teens around the world have spent an unprecedented amount of time online while grappling to understand and accept a transformative political, social, and economic climate.*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/teen-terrorism-inspired-social-media-rise-here-s-what-we-ncna1261307>

## **Derbyshire and Kent schoolboys deny terrorism offences.**

(Kent postcode location is Eltham)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-56211077>

## **COVID-19: How hateful extremists are exploiting the pandemic.**

The Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE) has published a report looking at the way in which extremists have sought to exploit the current pandemic. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-how-hateful-extremists-are-exploiting-the-pandemic>

### Making a Referral.

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](mailto: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. 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

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 one of the KCC Channel Coordinators. 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](https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html)

We 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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