



Prevent Education Officer

Kent and Medway

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I hope this Newsletter finds you well in these unprecedented times. Jill and I have had the pleasure of engaging with many of your settings either face to face or online since return to school in September. We continue to offer advice and support to schools and hope you have found our engagement useful.

UK Terror threat level increases to Severe

The UK threat levels have been raised following recent terrorist attacks in France and Vienna.

What are the threat levels?

There are five:

- CRITICAL means an attack is expected imminently
- SEVERE means an attack is highly likely
- SUBSTANTIAL means an attack is a strong possibility
- MODERATE means an attack is possible, but not likely
- LOW means an attack is unlikely

It is anticipated that the recent events in France and Vienna may be exploited by extremists on all sides to inflame hatred. Young people may be exposed to numerous conversations in person and online about these incidents.

As ever, we would advise that schools allow pupils to talk about their thoughts and concerns in a safe space. We must not let acts of terrorism divide our communities. Please do get in touch if you would like any support around having these difficult conversations or if you have concerns about tensions within your school. The following online resources may be of specific assistance to educators with **discussions about terrorist attacks**:

- **The PSHE Association Frameworks:** [Primary](#) and [Secondary](#) resources
- [Educate Against Hate](#)
- [NSPCC](#)

There are also some [fantastic resources developed by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#) – including videos, Prezis, and teacher notes, which explore the topic of extremism and terrorism.

See also guidance on [how to hold difficult conversations](#). Oxfam also have a helpful resource on [managing controversial issues in the classroom](#).

Patriotic Alternative Group



**PATRIOTIC
ALTERNATIVE** ✓

Patriotic Alternative is an organisation founded last year by ex- British Nationalist Party (BNP) activist Mark Collett. PA have primarily built a base online amongst those who consume far-right livestreams, podcasts, and videos. In the months since their founding they have organised several conferences, stickering sessions, activist meetups, and a ‘White Lives Matter’ banner drop to coincide with international Indigenous People’s Day. Some of these meetings have occurred in Kent and Medway.

Patriotic Alternative website promotes a section on home schooling. This includes some standardized letters to the Local authority and schools by

parents who wish to remove their children from education. Below are some direct quotes from the PA website on their educational aims:

It will be prohibited for any school to promote anti-white propaganda such as 'white privilege' and 'systemic racism'; British children will not be taught to hate themselves or their ancestors. Teachers are there to teach, not impart their own political views.

The Patriotic Alternative home-schooling initiative is designed, by experienced professionals and parents, for exactly this. With our help, your children can learn about their history and culture in a balanced and age-appropriate manner, free from the shackles and ideology of the National Curriculum. You are under no legal obligation to send your child to school; the education of your child is your right and your decision, and our programmes of study will help you to decide upon the path which is best for your child.

https://www.patriotalternative.org.uk/alternative_curriculum

It may be that applications for home schooling increase during the pandemic. Please ensure that you are mindful of this group and any potential influence they may have within your settings. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.

Conspiracy Theories Qanon



Qanon is a conspiracy theory which started in the United States that has started to gain momentum in the UK. The link below explains the background and elements of the theory that some parents may buy into linked to the hashtag # Save Our Children.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-54065470>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2020/sep/29/what-is-qanon-and-why-is-it-so-dangerous-conspiracy-theory-trump-video-explainer>

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.

We are 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. We are happy to arrange sessions between groups of schools or Academy trusts. We are also happy to look at a train the trainer model should schools be interested. Please email to discuss your individual setting training requirements.

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.

Parent Information Links

It is important that Parents are alerted to the signs of Radicalisation and extremism and how this may present in young people. Internet Matters have created a video that may be shared with parents to highlight grooming for extremism. The link below can be sent out with your safeguarding information for Parents & Guardians

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/>

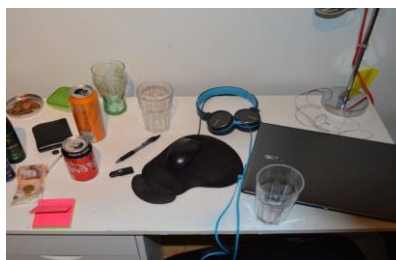
Media Updates

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

The second lockdown in England is making more young people vulnerable to being groomed by extremists, a senior counter-terror officer has warned. BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-54874300>

Neo-Nazi teenager admits encouraging terror attacks with propaganda poster campaign

Harry Vaughan was an 'A*' student', court hears as police warn over dangers of online radicalisation



<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neo-nazi-terrorists-uk-teenagers-harry-vaughan-kingston-london-attacks-b1073965.html>

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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