



Prevent Education Officer

Kent and Medway

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Happy 2021 to you all. I hope this newsletter finds you all well in these uncertain times. We find ourselves in another period of lockdown and home schooling which I know is extremely challenging. Jill and I are available to support you wherever we can during this difficult period. We continue to offer advice and support to schools and hope you find our engagement useful.

Free virtual remote learning student workshops

Following the government's announcement to close schools till February half term, *Stand Up* have adjusted their resources and are offering the below whilst students are remote learning.

Virtual workshops

Stand Up! will still be offering virtual workshops throughout this term for students learning from home.

They have a variety of sessions for different year groups. All online workshops are interactive and provide a safe space for young people to share their opinions, thoughts, and ideas on important topics. For more information or to book, please see the flyer attached or email 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


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.

UK Terror threat level remains Severe.

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

We would advise that schools allow pupils to talk about their thoughts and concerns in a safe space. We appreciate that during these times this can be very challenging, and that many children and young people are more isolated making them vulnerable to exploitation. Please do get in touch if you would like any support around having these difficult conversations. 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](#).

Advice for Parents/Carers

It is important that Parents are alerted to the signs of Radicalisation and extremism and how this may present in young people. We can offer workshops for parents. Please get in touch for information. 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 link below can be sent out with your safeguarding information.

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

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/>

Fake News and Conspiracy Theories

With young people learning more from home it is important that they understand the context of Fake news and conspiracy theories. Here are some resources which are game based that you may find useful to use with students around this subject.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/school-report-43391188>

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/interland/reality-river

NSPCC FREE virtual assembly for primary schools

NSPCC Virtual Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly - now extended across Term 3 and 4. This offer, available for children aged 5 to 11, includes access to video assemblies and supporting resources for use in the classroom. There is no cost to access the resources. If you would like to access the *Speak out. Stay safe.* online programme **please contact sarah.walker@nspcc.org.uk or register here: [Speak Out Stay Safe](#)**

Update from DfE Counter-Extremism Division

The DfE's Counter-Extremism Division have produced an updated blog on 'School and College Closures: Ongoing Prevent Management Support'. This is available through this link: https://educateagainsthate.com/blog/posts/january-2021-update-school-college-closures-ongoing-prevent-management-support/?utm_source=C-19%20January%202021&utm_medium=PEO%network&utm_campaign=CED

It contains some useful guidance and lines on Channel, school attendance, mental health and wellbeing, online safety, and extremist narratives.

Children on Channel to be offered a school place.

Under the guidance [children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#), individuals under-18 on Channel can be deemed vulnerable and therefore offered a place in education. If this is relevant to you then the PEO's and AEO's can work with you to facilitate this.

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 virtually.

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.

Prevent Policy Updates.

It is important that your Safeguarding Policy includes relevant Prevent information. The PEO's can work with you to ensure that school policies are relevant and up to date. Please contact the PEO for your area to arrange assistance with your policies. You may find the below information from Educate Against Hate useful.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/what-are-my-schools-responsibilities-under-the-prevent-duty/>

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.

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/>

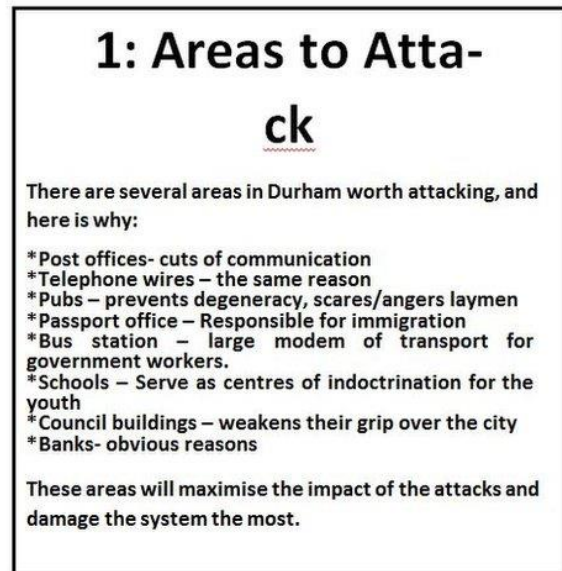
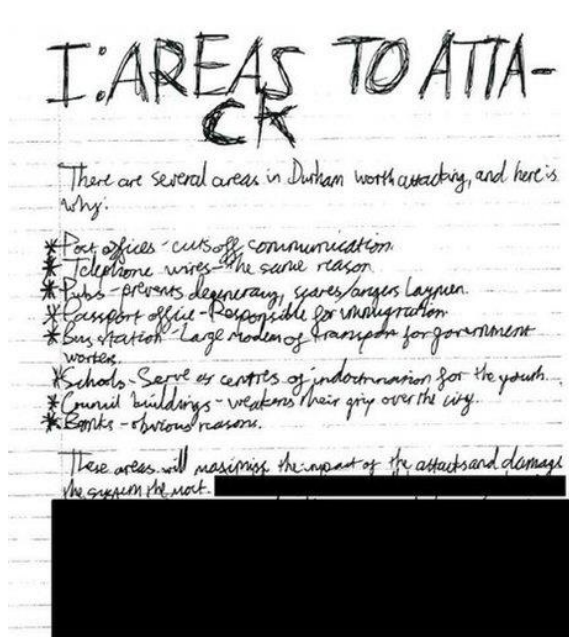
<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/learn-about-it/>

Media Updates

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

The youngest person to be convicted of planning a terror attack in the UK has been detained for more than six years.

The teenager drew up at "Hit List" of areas to attack.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-51022706>

Police warn isolation during the pandemic could push young people to extremism.

<https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/police-warn-isolation-pandemic-young-people-extremism/>

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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