



Walsall Prevent Digest

March 2021

Current Threat Level in the UK: SUBSTANTIAL– An Attack is Likely

Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator

Both Dave and I remain very hopeful that later in the year we may once again be in a position to arrange a School Prevent SPOC Event at EDC - possibly even as early as October 2021, but of course we will continue to be guided by Government and Local Authority guidelines. We have previously discussed the possibility of arranging an event via Teams, but quickly dismissed the idea as we were both of the opinion an EDC event would be far more effective. Besides, we feel we have provided relevant Prevent related information, events and training opportunities via regular E-Mails and Newsletters.



Update by Dave Chadwick, Prevent Education Officer – A huge ‘Welcome Back’ to all school staff

I cannot begin to imagine how much pressure you have been under this past year, facing many challenges, pressures and deadlines, most of which I am sure goes unnoticed. I sincerely hope that this is now the start of a more settled period and one that see’s our young people gain some normality, stability and the opportunity to socialise with their friends once again.

I am fully aware you will have any number of priorities moving forward and adjusting to a return to the classroom environment. This therefore is simply a reminder that if you do require PREVENT related information, advice, or training then please contact either Niall or myself (Contact details at the end of this newsletter).

KIV - WRAP training should be refreshed every 18-24 months in line with Ofsted recommendations.

Dave Chadwick – Patriotic Alternative

We have previously talked about Patriotic Alternative but I wanted to take this opportunity to talk a little more about them. Patriotic Alternative (P.A.) is an alliance of popular Right-Wing YouTube influencers established in October 2019. The group’s central narrative is white nationalist and white supremacist and is based around the Great Replacement Theory. Their aim is to raise awareness of issues such as the demographic decline of native Britons in the United Kingdom, the environmental impact of mass immigration and the indoctrination and the political bias taking place in British schools.



Since the pandemic began, P.A. have attempted to capitalise on home education by offering an 'alternative curriculum' for parents on their website, along with a template letter for parents to inform schools about their intention to home school. The 'alternative curriculum' is not overtly racist or extreme but instead primarily focuses on White British topics. A minority of resources could be considered extreme, including a series of music videos hosted on their website.

P.A. have recently increased their attempts to engage in recruitment and outreach to younger audiences. This is taking place across multiple platforms and through a variety of initiatives, including gaming competitions, baking competitions, book and film clubs. In January, Deputy leader Laura Towler invited her followers on 'YouTube' and 'Bit Chute' to participate in a baking competition to make "traditional British recipes", with the winner receiving a hamper and all entries being included in a bespoke cookery book published after the event.

It is likely far-right influencers use subtext and 'dog whistle tactics' on mainstream platforms to attract larger audiences while using marginal platforms to post more extreme content.

Critical thinking, critical literacy and fact checking are important in creating resilience to extremist narratives and conspiracy theories. Please see below for some credible websites with resources that will help with this.

- <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- <https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/resource-centre?s=25>
- <https://infotagion.com/>
- <https://literacytrust.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/all-party-parliamentary-group-literacy/fakenews/>



Letter from Independent Reviewer to the Prevent Network

As you may have seen, Ministers have announced that William Shawcross has been appointed as the new independent reviewer of Prevent following a full and open competition.

The Home Office have previously shared a letter from William Shawcross with the Prevent network and this letter has now been uploaded on **GOV.uk**.

Counter Terrorism Youth Advisory Group (CT YAG) – Call for New Members

The CTYAG is a National Collection of Youths with a passion for countering extremism, drawing upon their own experiences and skills to engage with vulnerable members of the community. Current members include individuals who have been personally effected by Terrorism, victims of attacks, students or those with just a passion for the subject.

The group aim to meet every two months with the following objectives:

1



Engage with young people to understand their views. Actively take part in debates in schools, colleges, universities or community groups to be able to fully represent their voice at our quarterly meetings.

2



Provide insight on what young people think about extremism and terrorism.

3



Shape our approach and to test our work, for example, media campaigns or case studies.

The group are currently looking for new members, aged 18-25, to expand its membership and create a series of Regional CT YAG's. Members will welcome interest from any young person who has the drive and ambition to make a difference.

This is an exciting opportunity for any young person to share their views and opinions with other like-minded individuals. Members have the opportunity to counter elements of extremism in their own communities and develop working practices that will benefit the whole country.

If you would like more information, or know of any person that fulfils the above criteria and would be interested in joining the group, please ask them to express an interest via this email address: CTAN@met.police.uk.

Website

Again, just by way of a reminder please visit the Prevent Webpage on our Safer Walsall Partnership external website. The site is live and the Prevent page can be accessed via the below link:-

www.saferwalsallpartnership.co.uk/prevent

For Information, Support or Guidance around Prevent, or should you have any queries, concerns or are looking to make a referral, please do not hesitate to contact us...



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