



# Walsall Prevent Digest

## January 2024

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

*'May this year bring lots of prosperity. Happy New Year! I wish you and your loved ones a year full of professional and personal growth'.*

*Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator.*



### Walsall Channel Panel Conference

On Wednesday 6 December 2023 at Walsall Football Club, we organised the first ever Walsall Channel Panel Conference.

As many of you will already be aware Channel is a multi-agency process that supports young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, faith, ethnicity or background who are in danger of being drawn into terrorism or supporting extremism that may lead to terrorism. Channel is one of the most important and effective aspects of the Prevent Strategy as it allows us to identify individuals at risk, assess the nature and extent of that risk before developing a tailored support plan to safeguard the individuals concerned. In essence the aim of Channel Panel is to safeguard people susceptible to exploitation by those who want them to embrace terrorism.

Channel is managed by the Local Authority, but to work effectively it requires the participation and engagement of key safeguarding partners and agencies, examples being, Police, Health Services, Education Sector, Youth Offending Service, Adult Social Care and Children's Services.



Multi-agency involvement in Channel ensure vulnerable people have access to a wide range of support from specialist services to diversionary activities. Its members attend, not as experts in counter-terrorism, but as experts in their profession providing access to services and local support.

The half-day event provided delegates the opportunity to learn how our local Channel processes work, receive important national and local updates and hopefully give some consideration as to how partners can play a role in safeguarding vulnerable people.

Guest Speakers included local experts from our own Channel Panel, Counter Terrorism Policing, Home Office (Prevent) and an Intervention Provider.



**Walsall Council**

# Walsall Schools Prevent Single Points of Contact (SPOC) Conference



The latest Walsall Schools Prevent Single Points of Contact (SPOC) Conference will take place at Walsall Football Club in March 2024. Speakers will include:-

- Richard Davies (West Midlands Police, CTU Analyst), will provide an update on current risk & threat in Walsall and the wider West Midlands region.
- Detective Constable Mat Langowski-Gadd, West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (Prevent), will provide information around how CTU Gateway Team assess Prevent related referrals and also, what makes a good referral.
- Nicola Benyahia, MBE, Consultant/Councillor, Mental Health and Family Intervention Provider, Families for Life, will talk about her work within the social care sector, spanning over 25 years, with extensive work in the context of mental health provision. Further to this, Nicola will talk about how she was personally affected by the impact of violent radicalisation processes in her own family.
- A subject specialist will raise awareness of how gaming culture is being exploited by different types of extremist groups and influencers.

## Prevent Duty Guidance – Update



This guidance replaces the ‘Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales’, the ‘Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales’, and the ‘Prevent duty guidance: for higher education institutions in England and Wales’ of 2015 (updated in April 2021).

This guidance is addressed to specified authorities in England and Wales. Those specified authorities are listed in Part 1 of Schedule 6 to the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015), being those to whom the Prevent duty under section 26 of the Act applies (Including local authorities). This guidance does not concern specified authorities in Scotland, which are listed at Part 2 of the Schedule and are also subject to the Prevent duty.

The Prevent duty does not confer new functions on any specified authority. The term ‘due regard’ as used in the CTSA 2015 means that the authorities should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions. The purpose of this guidance is to set out the expectations for each of the main statutory sectors and describe the ways in which they should comply with the Prevent duty.

## Pioneer Magazine

A few months ago and as Prevent lead for Walsall Borough, I was given the opportunity to provide an article to Walsall Pioneer Magazine' around The Prevent Strategy here in Walsall. The magazine itself is published every two months and distributed free of charge to many parts of Walsall, it also contains many adverts, articles and local information.

Safer Walsall Partnership has an unofficial agreement to have a 2-page spread in each edition.

The Prevent article can be accessed by opening the below link:-

<https://digital.magmgr.com/Preview/Index/2661502#page/1>

This guidance also includes sources of further advice to support best practice. There is separate guidance for specified authorities in Scotland.

We use the terms ‘must’ and ‘should’ throughout this guidance. We use the term ‘must’ when the specified authority is legally required to do something, and ‘should’ when the advice sets out expectations and good practice for complying with the Prevent duty.

This statutory guidance is intended for use by:

- senior leadership teams in any of the specified authorities listed in Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the CTSA 2015 (Including Local Authorities).
- those with dedicated Prevent and/or safeguarding responsibilities
- people in specified authorities with responsibility for how resources and funding are used, and for external partnerships
- those in a frontline role and likely to engage with people who may be susceptible to radicalisation.

**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 me...**



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### **Walsall Prevent Web page**

The Walsall Prevent Webpage can be located on our Safer Walsall Partnership external website. The site is live and the Prevent page can be accessed via the below link:-

**[www.saferwalsallpartnership.com/prevent-extremism](http://www.saferwalsallpartnership.com/prevent-extremism)**

