

# Walsall Prevent Digest

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

## Introduction – Niall Markham, Prevent Coordinator

Welcome to Septembers edition of 'Walsall Prevent Digest'! As always, I sincerely hope you are all keeping yourselves safe and well.

This month I was keen to adopt a slightly different approach with the Newsletter by inviting my colleague, Police Constable Mukesh 'Sunny' Lal from West Midlands Police, CTU, Prevent Team, to provide you with something of an insight into his work within Prevent in Walsall.

In addition, I have also included some useful guidance and additional resources.

Hopefully, you will find this interesting.....

## Introduction – Mukesh 'Sunny' Lal, Case Manager, Prevent

Firstly, I hope that you are all well and in good health. Naturally, it has been something of a challenging time for all of us by having to adapt and adjust our working lives and family lives.

### Referrals

Within Prevent, Walsall seems to have bucked the trend with regards to referrals during the lockdown period. The referrals received have come from a range of agencies, for example, Walsall Police, DWMHT, Schools, Beacon Centre, to name but a few. So this has been really pleasing. Visiting subjects has been another challenge, i.e. new risks as we have had to assess whether a visit was required to be carried out quickly, or were there already support mechanisms already in place which would allow us the opportunity to carry out a visit at a later stage. Fortunately, most of the cases have not warranted a 'drop everything' approach and regular updates from partner agencies and discussions at Walsall Channel Panel have allowed me to carry out thorough Risk and Prevent Assessments at the appropriate time.

We seem to be having a lot more referrals from subjects who are making comments in support of the Extreme Right Wing. This is in contrast to 4 years ago - when I first joined Prevent - when nearly all of my referrals were linked to support for Al Qaeda, ISIS or Taliban inspired rhetoric. Clearly, there are several reasons for this, Brexit, Donald Trump's election win and certain narratives used, a blame on CoVID-19, immigrants and the recent Black Lives Matter movement allowing racist sentiments to be echoed.

### Community

During 'lockdown' our Community Resilience Team have been in contact with over 70 agencies, organisations and faith establishments in Walsall providing them with our details should they want to discuss matters of concern. We are continuing to make contact with external partners and are eager to deliver our presentation.



## Youth Cafes

We have recently had conversations with Walsall College and agreed to deliver 'Youth Cafes' to their students (all social distancing guidelines adhered to) on both 6th and 7th October this year. There is a worry that with the sudden closure of schools and college, isolation may have steered idle, vulnerable minds towards unrestricted internet access. Our Youth Café lasts no more than 2 hours and we discuss Knife crime, Drugs/ County Lines and Radicalisation. We discuss each topic for approximately 10 minutes with role play and videos followed by a question discussed by each group before they report back to the rest of the audience. The sessions are interactive, thought provoking and certainly relevant.

If you would like further details on Youth Cafes, then please get in touch with me. I realise many of you will already have Niall Markham as your Prevent single point of contact however, my contact details are also provided below:-

(mob) 07765 390145 or E-Mail: [m.lal@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:m.lal@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)



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## Prevent: An Introduction.

Fittingly, as we recently marked the International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism (21/08/2020), this short five minute social edit focuses on the friends and family of those whose lives have been impacted.

Prevent Introduction video on [Home Office Youtube](#)

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## COVID-19 Prevent Guidance For Schools and Further Education Providers.

This is a briefing note for senior leaders, teachers and safeguarding leads at schools and further education providers on how extremists are using COVID-19 to promote disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories. This non-statutory advice from the Department for Education has been produced to provide a short summary of the extremist response to COVID-19, highlighting the additional radicalisation risks for children and young people and suggested actions for settings to take.

- **Full Briefing: COVID-19 Prevent Guidance For Schools and Further Education Providers**
- **Short Blog Post: Extremists are targeting young people during the pandemic – so what can you do to tackle this in the classroom?**



**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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