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Department
for Education

February 2020

FE/HE Prevent News: London

Your monthly Prevent update for Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) providers in London.



Dear Further Education and Higher Education providers,

Hope you are all well and have not been too battered by Storm Ciara. Other than being caught in a hail shower yesterday, I have come through it unscathed.

Plenty of work undertaken in January. I ran four Prevent train-the-trainer sessions to help the content, context, and continuing training development amongst HE and FE providers in London. This is alongside several sessions of "regular" Prevent training. Training is a vital component of Prevent duty compliance - please do get in

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I have also been working with a number of providers in developing their policies, procedures and risk assessments to ensure they fit in well and effectively with Prevent duty requirements. I won't necessarily do them for providers, but I can provide advice and suggestions that should make your documents and processes better! Just let me know if I can be of assistance - particularly if OfS or Ofsted have highlighted the need for improvement.

And finally, reminder to those in a couple that it's Valentine's Day on Friday. I'll be spending it at a training day on Far Right Extremism. I know that my partner is very appreciative!

Have a nice month.

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The second London ILP Prevent Network took place on Wednesday 8 January at IBM offices and was very well attended. It was great to hear from IBM about some examples of best practice in Prevent delivery and embedding of Fundamental British Values. I'm keen to hear from other colleagues about areas of best practice or challenge so that other providers can learn - let me know if you have something you would like to highlight or discuss at a future network.

The London FE College Network also met on Tuesday 28 January. We heard from a college that had gone through an Ofsted inspection under the new framework - very insightful. I will share the minutes in due course.

Higher education

The next London HE Prevent Network is to take place on Tuesday 3 March 2020, from 13.00 to 16.00, at London South Bank University. Precise location and agenda to be shared in due course but please do let me know if you are able to attend so I can keep a track of numbers.

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Foundation on their resources which can all be accessed via www.preventforfeandtraining.org.uk.

Give yourself some time and really explore the site - there is so much there that can help FE providers in their Prevent responsibilities.

Finally, last week was National Apprenticeship Week - let me know if your provider did anything exciting to celebrate. Particularly if it all involved Prevent at all!

Streatham High Road terrorist incident

On Sunday 2 February, a terrorist - 20-year-old Sudesh Amman from north-west London - was shot dead following a knife attack on Streatham High Road. Three people were injured in the attack, but thankfully all are going to be ok. Thoughts go out to those that were injured and caught up in the incident.

Amman had recently been released from prison after serving time for terrorist-related offences. Although we will never know all of the components of Amman's radicalisation, we are aware that he had been consuming Daesh and al-Qa'ida propaganda. Low-sophistication attacks (low-tech, lone actor, ideologically inspired), unfortunately, remain a threat we face in London and the UK.

The [Victims of Terrorism Unit](#) at the Home Office includes access to support

If any of your students and/or staff members have been directly impact by the incident, then you may receive a number of press enquiries. The Home Office and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have created [guidance on handling media attention](#) after a major incident which you may find helpful.

Finally, feel free to get in contact with me if I can be of any assistance.

Statement from the Security Minister in response to CTSE Policing guidance

It's likely you will have seen coverage regarding a Counter Terrorism police report which listed some protest groups and the Ukrainian Coat of Arms alongside extremist organisations. The report has been recalled and Security Minister, Brandon Lewis, has released a statement in the House of Commons on 22 January:

"In recent days I have seen media coverage of the guidance produced by CT Police which includes protest groups, and unfortunately a lot of misreporting and ill informed commentary attempting to link this with the Government's Prevent strategy.

I want to take this opportunity to respond to these reports and correct some of the false assertions made from people who, quite frankly, should know better.

Firstly, as we and the police have said, protest groups are absolutely not considered to be extremist groups.

welcome the fact that this has been recalled by the police.

Another was the “signs and symbols” document which the police designed to help police officers identify what is and is not lawful that they might see in their day-to-day work. I know the inclusion of protest groups in documents like these without context can be concerning, which is why I welcome the police’s quick response in clarifying their position.

Some coverage has also claimed that both sets of materials were drafted and issued as part of the Prevent programme. This is simply untrue.

Membership or support of such groups does not mean that a person is considered a threat by us or by the police. It certainly does not mean that people who are part of these groups should be referred to Prevent.

The [Prevent programme](#) is about safeguarding and protecting individuals to protect them from becoming terrorists. I’ve seen the amazing work of the Prevent network in stopping vulnerable people being drawn down a very dangerous path, and I am positive that it has helped save lives by turning people’s lives around and stopping them from becoming terrorists.

Prevent is there to protect people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorist groups, such as proscribed organisations like National Action and Al-Muhajiroun, who deliberately incite violence and hatred.

Prevent is certainly not concerned with protesters who want to bring about change

The right to free speech and protest are cornerstones of our democracy, which I and this Government are committed to protecting. The Prevent strategy in no way, shape or form undermines this commitment."

ACT e-learning

I know I have mentioned this before, but following the incident in Streatham it is worth reminding you all that you can access the **NaCTSO ACT (Action Counters Terrorism)** e-learning which is free of charge, [here](#). The learning covers the following topics:

1. Introduction to terrorism
2. Identifying security vulnerabilities
3. How to identify and respond to suspicious behaviour
4. How to identify and deal with a suspicious item
5. What to do in the event of a bomb threat
6. How to respond to a firearms or weapons attack
7. Summary and supporting materials.

This is worthwhile to do as citizens, as well as in your professional role.

For HE: OfS publication of data

Last week the OfS published their most recent Prevent reports. (Press release can

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- [The findings of the Prevent Review Meetings \(PRM\) carried out between May-October 2019](#)
- [The year one evaluation of the OfS' Prevent monitoring framework.](#)

Some of the key findings of the reports were:

- **High level of compliance** with the Prevent duty (80%) based on the 28 out of the 35 providers that had PRMs.
- The remaining seven providers were found as 'further actions needed' to demonstrate due regard.
- Feedback to providers included ensuring that:
 - risk assessments contain sufficient information on local risks, tailored to the circumstances of providers;
 - staff continue to receive effective training that related to the wider context of safeguarding awareness;
 - Welfare concerns are managed consistently and appropriately with clear understanding of how to make external referrals to specialist support agencies.
- The OfS found **no cause for concern that free speech was being undermined by Prevent** in relation to external speakers policies. This view was echoed by providers, based on a survey of 141.
- Overall **perceptions of Prevent have improved significantly** in HE institutions since the duty's introduction in 2015.
- Areas for development of the OfS's monitoring framework include:
 - ensuring effective communication between providers and the OfS;
 - developing more example of effective practice case studies to be shared across the sector;
 - the OfS working with the DfE to update training packages available.

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For FE: Ofsted annual report

Ofsted has published its [annual report](#) looking at schools, early years, further education and skills, and children's social care in England for the academic year 2018/19. The commentary by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman includes acknowledging "unregistered children's homes, unregulated provision for care leavers and unregistered and illegal schools, are where children are potentially coming to significant harm".

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