

June 2021

FE/HE Prevent News: London

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



Dear FE and HE providers,

Summer is fast approaching, though the weather doesn't seem to have caught up yet. It's been a busy month in the Fisher household with settling in to a new flat and the purchase of a number of house plants. The bookcases have been rearranged a number of times and major appliances have unexpectedly broken, all to be expected with a new home. I know I have some well needed annual leave coming up, and hopefully - if possible - you do too, and there'll be more on taking a break in Your Welfare.

I've no doubt everyone has seen the movement of the changing of government guidance to July 19th (at time of writing), and this is something that is taken into account when booking in sessions and networks. Currently, the next network to take place will be the London FE College Prevent Network on July 8th and

although we aimed to have this a blended virtual / face-to-face session it will now be entirely on MS Teams. This will be reassessed as we move forward and your input will always be valued.

There has, as always, been a lot of partnership working going on between me, SO15, and Local Authorities that I'd like to make sure you can be involved in. There's a section this month offering some Local Authority based sessions and as always there is a SO15 offer of support too so do take advantage of the opportunity to engage with them. Many of you had the opportunity to attend a CTLP session run by SO15 last month, and if you'd like to be put in touch with your local SO15 contact do let me know and this can be arranged.

I've also welcomed Nina Evans-Tomlinson and Michael Nelson as the FE/HE SO15 contacts, replacing Leanne Alleyne who many of you met at various networks last year. Nina and Mike will be making their way round the networks over the coming weeks and months to introduce themselves to you. I for one am very much looking forward to working with them and am excited to introduce them to you all in due course.

As always, if you need anything do drop me an email or give me a call!

**Best wishes,
Jennie**

Jennie Fisher
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Sector specific information

Further Education

The next Further Education College London Prevent Network will be held on July 8th, and will be held on MS Teams. An invite should be with all primary contacts, if you can't attend and would like to pass the invite along do let me know.

Guidance around work-based learners has been uploaded to GOV.UK. The guidance has not changed in the move and is available here: [Guidance for further education providers on work-based learners and the Prevent statutory duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-further-education-providers-on-work-based-learners-and-the-prevent-statutory-duty)

Higher Education

[The Prevent Duty in higher education \(HE\): training and guidance for practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-prevent-duty-in-higher-education-he-training-and-guidance-for-practitioners)

The full training material now hosted on Gov.uk is:

- An introduction to the Prevent Duty in higher education (HE) training materials
- The leadership challenge: the Prevent Duty for governing bodies and senior leaders in higher education (HE)
- The Prevent duty of care and the wellbeing of staff and students in higher education (HE)
- Risk assessment and action planning when implementing the Prevent Duty in higher education (HE)

Upcoming Training Sessions - Online Platforms and Introduction to Incels - September Dates

As mentioned in the previous digest I am running training sessions on a wider scale. MS Teams now has capacity for 1000 attendees so I've removed the 10 person per provider cap on the below sessions.

[Introduction to Incels](#) - [Monday September 27th](#) - 9.30 - 10.15

[Online Platforms and Extremist Content](#) - [Tuesday September 28th](#) - 9.30 - 10.45

I'd like to open this up to others within your institutions and teams. If you'd like your staff to attend please send through a list of email addresses and names to myself so an invite can be sent.

A reminder that sessions are open not only to FEHE providers but also to partners such as Local Authorities, Police, and others.

To book onto a session click the link of the session you'd like to book above to open an email template. If this doesn't work, please email me at jennie.fisher@education.gov.uk

Upcoming Prevent Induction / Refresher Sessions

As September approaches I know many minds will be turning to induction for new staff and refresher training for existing staff. I'll be hosting the below sessions which will be the standard Prevent session I offer, giving an overview of risk and threat alongside an overview of the Prevent Duty and signs of radicalisation.

It will **not** include any content from Introduction to Incels or Online Platforms so please book those sessions separately.

[August Prevent Session](#) - Wednesday August 25th - 11.00 - 12.00

[September Prevent Session](#) - Tuesday September 21st - 9.00 - 10.00

These sessions are only open to FE and HE providers. These will be open to a maximum of 15 attendees per provider as I anticipate high demand. If there are spaces left as we approach the dates I'll ensure you're kept updated if there are more staff who would like to attend.

To book onto a session click the link of the session you'd like to book above to open an email template. If this doesn't work, please email me at jennie.fisher@education.gov.uk

Spotlight - SO15

I mentioned in the introduction the partnership working that is so crucial to our work, and one of those partners is SO15 Counter-Terrorism Policing. I have the pleasure of working with a large number of SO15 colleagues across London, one being Detective Superintendent Jane Corrigan, the London Lead for Prevent.

"Countering the threat from terrorism within the UK is a collective effort. No single agency can possibly manage the broad range of social, political, health and ideological challenges that often underpin the terrorism risk to the public and the nation. Legislative changes in 2015 made it clear that the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) needed



all public bodies to work together to promote the early identification of vulnerability that someone may be drawn into terrorism. Nationally about a third of all referrals to Prevent originate in schools. Far less referrals come from HE/FE and we understand that within these areas there can be less contact with students and as such the signs may be more difficult to spot. In London we manage a high percentage of cases. In other words, when a referral is received the subject enters Channel or Police Led Partnership. One could argue that this indicates a quality of referral, equally you could say the individual being referred is already too far down the radicalisation journey and has more risk of escalating into the criminal space. We know from studies that early referral is key and would encourage you to make that call if something doesn't feel right.

Prevent remains a challenging area of work for public bodies, it's subject to much debate, media scrutiny and often misrepresentation. The core goal of Policing is much the same as that of Education, to protect the public. Protecting the public from terrorism will often be inter related to protecting some of the more vulnerable in our society from themselves or online influences. There are a range of points in a person's life when they are most vulnerable whether it be age, mental ill health, isolation, or seeking a sense of belonging. Getting the right outcome for cases whether that be mental health intervention, arrest or diversion can only be achieved through strong partnership and mutual trust.

Recently an article by Medact highlighted the challenges of CT policing and health working together. One could say there is a natural rub between both of our agencies, to balance rights to privacy and those national security obligations. At the time we responded to the Medact report saying "There is nothing 'secretive' about our Vulnerability Support Service, and if people are interested in learning more about our vital work to divert people with mental ill health away from the criminal justice system and towards the clinical support they need, they can find more information on the Prevent page of our website." It is my view that referring and having those early-stage conversations with police, local authorities, and other partners is a positive, particularly if it raises awareness that someone might be vulnerable to being radicalised or shines a light on other safeguarding or welfare concerns.

What we can say is that these objectives can sit together, there is a place for balanced consideration and better sharing of information to mitigate risk to the public and the individual. The tragic circumstances of the terror attack at Fishmongers Hall and subsequent coronial inquest has delivered significant recommendations to CT Policing about better sharing of our information. If you or your team would like to know more we'd be happy to facilitate a session to highlight the work we can and do together.

Contextual safeguarding is the approach now familiar to us and asks us to consider a broad range of factors and not see vulnerability through a singular lens. Vulnerability to radicalisation should be seen as part of these wider considerations. The national ACT Early campaign has some fantastic resources and explanations of the signs to consider and remains our recommended source of information. Take 5 minutes to check out our website www.ActEarly.UK"

If anyone would like a session with SO15 do get in touch and this can absolutely be organised! A huge thank you to Jane for being the first Spotlight and I'm looking forward to introducing you to other members of SO15 and other partners in future editions of the digest.

Online World Updates

In an effort to keep you up to date on movement within the online world I'll be continuing this section whenever there is news on the subject.



Gab:

GNET have released an Insight into Gab and the use of the site by the Far-Right, looking at the community that is being built on Gab and how this has become appealing to those in the Far-Right. Available here: [Gab's Gift to the Far-Right – GNET \(gnet-research.org\)](https://gnet-research.org).



TikTok:

The [BBC have recently reported](#) that TikTok has removed over 7 million accounts belonging to those under 13 years old. This information was taken from the TikTok Community Guidelines Enforcement Report which also reports that 0.5% of videos removed from TikTok were due to violent extremist content

- an increase of 0.2% on the last half of 2020 - and that this content was removed within 24 hours of it being posted 87.1% of the time. The full report is available at [this link](#).



Facebook:

Users have been noticing new alerts on the site relating to extremist content. The alerts let people know if they've been exposed to, or have engaged with, extremist content and is part of the site's wider "Redirect Initiative" as referenced by Andy Stone (Policy Communications Director for Facebook) in [this tweet](#). More information about the Facebook Redirect Initiative is available [here](#).



Are you concerned that someone you know is becoming an extremist?

We care about preventing extremism on Facebook. Others in your situation have received confidential support.



How you can help

Hear stories and get advice from people who escaped violent extremist groups.

[Get Support](#)

Close

Online World Resources and Reports:

An interesting Insight by GNET around the challenges surrounding researching or tracking violent extremism in the online space. May be particularly of interest to those institutions who run courses involving the research of violent extremism online. Full report here: [Tracking Violent Extremism Online and the Challenge of Open-Source Intelligence – GNET \(gnet-research.org\)](#)

There has long been discussion around the impact of algorithms on recommending concerning content. A webinar exploring how algorithms may amplify divisive content is available here: [CEP Webinar with Dr. Hany Farid | Algorithmic Amplification of Divisive Content on Tech Platforms | Counter Extremism Project](#)

Many of you will have heard me mention the gamification of extreme violence

and terrorist attacks, and this article looks at the Christchurch attack which extremists have transformed into a map on Roblox and Minecraft along with other news relating to online content: [Extremist Content Online: Online Extremists Create Digital Version of Christchurch Terrorist Attack in Videogames](#) | [Counter Extremism Project](#)

Self-Initiated Terrorism - Resource Available

The majority of you will have heard me mention self-initiated terrorism in training sessions, or you may have heard SO15 discuss it in CTLP sessions. The definition of self-initiated terrorism is:

'Person(s) who threaten or mobilise to violence (as defined in s1 TACT 2000) without material support or personal direction from a terrorist organisation; but who may still be influenced or encouraged by the rhetoric or ideology of a group'

I have a PDF available which gives an overview of self-initiated terrorism including signs and examples which you may find useful and interesting. Please email me to let me know if you'd like this sent to you.

Resources and Reports

Liam Duffy - who some of you may have heard speak before - has produced a report for the Counter Extremism Project around Islamist Narratives in the West. Very detailed and interesting reading, available here: [Gradualists to Jihadists: Islamist Narratives in the West, Dec 2020.pdf \(www---new-site-4frzrti-5wuc5j7ssjg4s.us.platform.sh\)](#)

The Counter Extremism Project held a webinar to discuss the current threat picture from right-wing terrorism in Europe, based on an extensive report that is available [here](#). The webinar can be accessed at this link [CEP Webinar: The Threat Posed by Right-Wing Terrorism in Europe and the U.S. | Kapcer Rekawek, PhD](#) | [Counter Extremism Project](#)

We've not been able to escape conspiracy theories during the pandemic, but to what extent do they have a role in radicalisation? The Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right seeks to answer that question here: [The Role of Conspiratorial Narratives in the Violent Radicalisation of Right-Wing Lone Actors – Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right \(radicalrightanalysis.com\)](#)

Of particular interest to those institutions who partake in research relating to far-right extremism, a short exploration of the considerations of researching such a potentially disturbing topic. Covering viewing disturbing content and the mental health impact, keeping researchers safe from potential extremists, and cyber security. [The perils of studying far-right extremism must be surmounted – Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right \(radicalrightanalysis.com\)](#).

Engagement Opportunities - Local Authority Based

Free CPD opportunity for **FE settings in Hammersmith & Fulham/Kensington and Chelsea**

EXTREMISM AND MEDIA LITERACY

To include an in-depth focus on:

TACKLING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES: HOW TO FRAME DEBATE AND DISCUSSION

Wednesday 3 November 2021

2pm to 5pm

In the new academic year, the H&F/RBKC Prevent team will be partnering with [Shout Out UK](#) (SOUK), a multi-award-winning education platform and creative social enterprise, to offer a free, highly worthwhile CPD session on the subject of extremism and media literacy.

To express your interest in attending the session, please complete this [short form](#). Multiple colleagues from each FE setting in H&F/RBKC may attend.

For more information, please contact Simone Torry, the Prevent Education Officer for H&F/RBKC: simone.torry@lbhf.gov.uk

Your Welfare

I mentioned in the introduction that I hope everyone has a chance to take a break over the coming couple of months. It's been a difficult 14 months in many ways and the benefits of taking a break can't be overstated. I'm the first to admit that I've not been the best in the past at making sure I take annual leave, but with a supportive line manager I'm definitely getting better. Some resources are below around maintaining good mental health at work, and the benefits of

taking annual leave, which you may find helpful to aid discussion in your teams around mental health and taking a break.

Mind have a resource around mental wellbeing at work, including a section on the benefits of taking annual leave, available [here](#).

Bupa have an article exploring why people don't take their annual leave, and how to encourage staff to do so including the benefits of having a break. Available [here](#).

Mind also have an entire website section dedicated to wellbeing at work, both for managers and employees, available at this link: [Mental health at work | Mind, the mental health charity - help for mental health problems](#)

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