

SANDWELL PREVENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

Prevent & COVID-19

Welcome to October's edition of our newsletter. We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. We continue to be available for support and keep you up to date for key information and guidance in relation to Prevent. Please do contact us for any queries...

You will be aware that the Government has recently introduced a new 3-tier Covid alert system to localise measures to help reduce transmission of the virus. Sandwell is currently at level 2 'high alert'. Please continue to follow Government advice on how to prevent the spread of Covid-19. <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions> has guidance for local areas.

#Safer6

Sandwell's annual autumn [Safer 6 campaign](#) has a special online focus this year. The campaign, now in its 11th year, will promote a wide range of safety, crime prevention and healthy living advice. With our Communications team, we recently uploaded our '[Online Safety for Parents Guidance booklet](#)' as part of exploitation week (28 September-4 October) which includes steps you can take, and information for keeping young people safe online. We have also planned the delivery of sessions working in partnership with our Comms team and our schools/partners. Please keep a look out for our; **Child Online Safety Awareness for Parents**, **Community Understanding Extremism training** and our **Prevent briefing** sessions. If you would be interested in jointly hosting/attending these sessions, please get in touch.

Families for Life sessions available!

This month we would like to shine the spotlight on one of our project providers, **Nicola Benyahia**. Nicola is an accredited counsellor who set up her organisation Families for Life after losing her son to radicalisation in 2015. Nicola's son went to Syria, joined IS and sadly died whilst she was de-radicalising him. This has given Nicola a unique insight and empathy into a range of experiences, and her organisation now run sessions with families and community groups on empowerment, resilience-building, healthy relationships, communication, boundary setting and mental health. If your group is interested in receiving a free workshop from Nicola, please contact our Projects Coordinator below. Sessions are limited!
Lauren_Bond@sandwell.gov.uk

Training available for Professionals!

SMBC/SCT staff, if you haven't already, please complete the **Artemis Prevent Training** by logging into your account and clicking the 'Prevent Training' link. The course provides an overview on the Prevent duty, Radicalisation & the Channel Panel. The training is aimed at professionals working with; children, families, young people and adults at risk.

Understanding Extremism: We have three upcoming dates for this highly popular training that covers an understanding of the background of different extremist groups; including the ideologies of the Extreme Far Right and Global Jihadism. Please email Lauren_Bond@sandwell.gov.uk with your interest in attending this course. You will then receive the training invite.

Recent news

BBC News reports that the trial of a **former Irish soldier charged with joining Daesh and funding terrorism** has been set for 2022. 38-year-old Lisa Smith, 38, from County Louth, appeared at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on 14th September. Smith denies belonging to Daesh between October 2015 and December 2019. She also denies funding terrorism by sending a named man 800 euros in May 2015. The trial, which will begin on 11 January 2022, is expected to last 12 weeks, with Smith facing up to a decade in prison if she is convicted.

Hitler Youths – The Rise of Teenage Far-Right Terrorists - [HOPE not hate](#) has uncovered a new neo-Nazi group operating in the UK calling for violence and terror – but shockingly all its members are children. A Derby-based teenager, approximately 15 years old, is leading this new extreme far-right group called the 'The British Hand'. The young group discuss attacking migrants in Dover, how to acquire, modify and make weapons and how to hide their political views in order to be able to enlist in the military. [The full report is here.](#)

Facts

- Did you know that origins of the word 'extremist' come from the root word in Latin known as 'extremus' "outermost, utmost, farthest, last; the last part; extremity, boundary; highest or greatest degree."
- Did you know the idea of the British Values were set out in the Prevent Strategy 2011?
- Prevent was set up in 2006 by the then Labour Government and it was known as Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE).



[We are live on Twitter!](#)



Please follow us
@preventsandwell for our latest updates and news.

Conspiracy Theories

As Covid-19 continues, so do the conspiracy theories. The evolution of these theories can be mapped from the beginning of the pandemic. Recently, President's Trump's announcement that he has been affected by Covid-19 is one example that has led to a stream of conspiracy theories. One theory that has emerged is that President Trump was affected by Covid-19 at the Presidential debate; with another being that the President was seriously ill and therefore body doubles were being used. A third conspiracy theory suggested President Trump had been hooked up to an oxygen tank due to his ill health. A recent study conducted in New Zealand by Kate Hannah, a researcher at 'Te Pūnaha Matatini', says the conspiracy theories have changed slightly as the virus has progressed. "Earlier theories from the beginning of the outbreak tended to be more health and wellbeing related. But as we got through to it, coinciding with the election cycle, there were much more international conspiracy theories".

It is interesting to see how conspiracy theories are being utilised by groups such as ISIS and the Extreme Right Wing, however, as professionals working in safeguarding, it is imperative to beware of such conspiracy theories and understand how individuals can be influenced by them and how we are able to support and manage those who are vulnerable in these difficult times.

ONLINE SAFETY

In addition to above, the [Childnet internet safety leaflet](#) (available in different languages) includes some useful steps parents can take and key information for keeping young people safe online.

The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has a set of handy documents for applying appropriate filtering and monitoring relating to the use of IT for schools and providers.

The Test filtering [website](#) can be used to test if your internet service provider (ISP) is protecting your staff and students/service users from harmful content, including terrorist related material.

DfE Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687

Available: Monday

– Friday (8am – 6pm)

Email address: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have issued the following guidance:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Staying Safe Online](#)

Report Suspicious Activity

Counter Terrorism Policing's [ACT campaign](#) is for reporting anything you've seen or heard that could potentially be related to terrorism.

Your actions could save lives...

For information, support or guidance on Prevent in Sandwell, you can email:
Prevent_Inbox@sandwell.gov.uk

If you would like to talk to someone about any queries, concerns, or a referral do not hesitate to make contact with anyone from the Prevent Team:

Strategic Prevent Coordinator: Pardeep_Brar@sandwell.gov.uk

0121 569 4725 / 07500 129348

Prevent Education Officer: Justin_Nixon@sandwell.gov.uk

0121 569 4725 / 07790 396643

TYS Prevent Officer: Sarfraz_Khan@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

0121 569 2322 / 07768 818439