

SANDWELL PREVENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

Prevent & COVID-19

Hi everyone, and welcome to September'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 Sandwell has recently been adopted under national measures to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Sandwell's seven-day rate of new cases is now at the highest level since the start of May and the infection rate is rising. Please continue to follow Government advice on how to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

11th September - It's been 19 years since 9/11. Our thoughts are with all those effected by the tragic events that unfolded. The UK Government ['Victims of Terrorism' website](#) has emotional & practical support available for anyone who has been affected in any way by a terrorist attack.

15th September - Marked the 'International Day of Democracy' & 3 years since the Parsons Green attack where 51 people were sadly injured when a bomb was placed on the London Underground Tube.

REWIND UK

We'd like to introduce you to (if you're not already aware) our close working partners, REWIND UK. REWIND UK are a Sandwell based, internationally recognised project that have been working closely with Sandwell Council for over 20 years; and working to challenge Racism and Extremism nationally for over 30 years.

REWIND UK's work has involved; working within education settings (schools, colleges, universities), youth work, training for staff and working one to one with people who have racist / extremist views; including several convicted Far Right terrorists. REWIND UK's work also addresses issues relating to Identity, Terrorism & Radicalisation.

Founder and director, [Dave Allport](#) has been a Home Office Intervention Provider, and for several years the project has been advising Government thinking on Far Right issues. Most recently, REWIND UK have been delivering the highly successful school safeguarding days alongside valued Sandwell partners; DECCA, West Midlands Police and the Sandwell Council ASB team. Another, also being, the delivery of the popular 'Understanding Extremism' training for professionals, now available for community groups. REWIND UK are currently adapting valuable resources for schools and pupils in Sandwell to benefit from, and their work for years has aligned closely with the Prevent agenda.

Training available for Professionals!

[SMBC/SCT staff](#), if you haven't already, please access and complete the **Artemis Prevent Training** by logging into your account and clicking the 'Prevent Training' link. The course provides an overview on Radicalisation, the Prevent duty & 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 justin_nixon@sandwell.gov.uk with your interest in attending this course. You will then receive the online training invite.

Recent news

Ten days of Extinction Rebellion demonstrations in London ended with naked protests and an arrest over graffiti daubed on a statue of Sir Winston Churchill. At least 648 people have been arrested during the environmental action, including one man on Thursday on suspicion of causing criminal damage to the statue of the former prime minister in Parliament Square. Yellow graffiti was daubed on its plinth, including the words "is a racist". London mayor Sadiq Khan said: "This appalling vandalism is completely unacceptable. It will be fully investigated, and the statue will be cleaned as quickly as possible." The Metropolitan Police confirmed protesters had dispersed after 7pm, in line with conditions imposed on the event.

A US based Neo-Nazi group called **'The Base'** are grooming young people online in the UK. The FBI have arrested several group members who seek to unite White Supremacists around the world and incite a 'race' war and the collapse of society. A recent BBC 1 Panorama documentary exposed group members and also showed a 16 year old from the UK who had been radicalised; now the youngest person in the UK to be convicted of planning a terror attack. Two other young men in the UK, one aged 15, are also currently in the court process and facing a combined 25 terrorism offences. They had all also been accessing a website called **'Fascist Forge'** which encourages terrorism and sexual violence.



[We are live on Twitter!](#)

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



Facts

- Did you know.. if violence is carried out in the United Kingdom in the name of a religious, political, or ideological cause (or all three) then this act will fall under the Terrorism Act 2000.
- Prevent was set up in 2006 by the then Labour Government and it was known as Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE).

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have issued [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Staying Safe Online guidance](#).

DfE Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687

Available: Monday – Friday (8am – 6pm)

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

Conspiracy Theories

As the pandemic has continued, different conspiracy theories have emerged. One theory, is the claim from individuals linked to pseudo-science that Covid-19 does not exist or is not fatal. Another being, the theory 'Q Anon'; a convoluted conspiracy theory that President Trump is waging a war on Satan worshipping elite paedophiles and the advocacy that he is leading a fight against child trafficking. The theory goes along, that a day of reckoning will take place with prominent politicians and journalists being arrested and executed. Both of these theories were addressed by speakers at a march organised and attended by ten thousand conspiracy theorists in London last month. Theorists, aiming to voice their opinion that the pandemic was a hoax. Jovan Byford, an Open University psychologist states "Conspiracy theories flourish when social machinery breaks down and available ways of making sense of the world prove inadequate for what is going on." Individuals and groups promoting the Q Anon conspiracy theories fail to accept hard facts around Covid-19 and hence, anybody that challenges the Q Anon conspiracy theory can be viewed as being complicit and part of the problem. The impact of viewing misinformation and creating a mindset that refuses to accept an aorta of opposing views not only creates tension with those that oppose the ideas externally, but can also have an impact on families internally, especially when you have an individual or individuals that are hugely influenced by such conspiracy theories. It is at this important junction that individuals need to be able to manage or access support, especially if the conspiracy theories discuss utilising violence as a tool for change.

ONLINE SAFETY

The DfE's [briefing for schools and colleges](#) has now been published. Please see the [Full briefing for COVID-19 Prevent Guidance](#) or the [Short Blog Post: 'Extremists are targeting young people during the pandemic—so what can you do to tackle this in the classroom?'](#) [here](#).

The UK Safer Internet Centre have a [webpage](#) for helping young people get 'back to school' ready with BBC 'Own It'. They also have a really useful newsletter that you can sign up to listed on the webpage.

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

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