



Education Subgroup

MINUTES

19th October 2020 – 10.30 a.m.-12.00 p.m.

Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees:

Amrita Sharma, Business Manager, Warks Safeguarding	AS
Elaine Coleridge-Smith, Indep. Chair, Warks Safeguarding	ECS
Geoff Thomas, Prevent	GT
Ian Budd, Assistant Director, Education Services	IB (Part Chair)
Jo Farmbrough, EPS	JF
Jo Howell, The Poleworth School	JH
Karen Berwick, Stratford-Upon-Avon School	KB
Katherine Skudra, Warwickshire College	KS
Kim Garcia, SLT, Education Services	KG (Part Chair)
Linda Fenn, Business Support	LF (Minutes)
Marie Rooney, Strategic Lead Alternative Provision	MR
Marina Kitchen, Service Mgr for EH & Targeted Support	MK
Matthew Pike, Macintyre Academies	MP
Michael Martin, Associate Head, Kingsbury School	MM
Paul Fellows, Special Teaching Service	PF
Roy Garner, Headteacher Coach	RG
Sally Kaminski-Gaze, All Saints CE Primary School	SKG
Sharon Kindred, Stockingford Nursery School	SK
Sonia Waszczak, Early Years	SW
Sue Hunt, MASH Education Lead	SH
Vanessa Gilbert, Team Teach	VG
Yvette Grogan, ABP Eastern Area/Rugby High	YG

Apologies:

Jane Key, ICTDT
Jane Le Poidevin, Paddox Primary School

1. Introductions and apologies:

KG welcomed colleagues to the meeting and asked that any new colleagues attending the meeting for the first time introduce themselves. Apologies were noted as above.



2. Minutes of Meeting (22.6.20) / Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and discussed – see below.

KG further advised that a new Action Log is being introduced in order to track progress on agreed actions and this was duly shared with the group for their information and comment.

Action 1: Facebook Suggestion: KG suggested this item still needed to be considered by the Group; request made that colleagues refer back to the Minutes for further discussion at the next meeting. LF to bring this item forward to the next meeting.

Action 2: Operation Encompass: Synergy Read Only Access: unknown as to the status of this action therefore a follow up required by the Group.

Action 3: Operation Encompass – Cross Border issues: unknown as to status of this action therefore a follow up required by the Group.

Action 4: SW - Operation Encompass Early Years: SW advised a lot of investigative work has taken place regarding getting settings to have a secure email address or whether there was an alternative available. SW confirmed that there is an alternative and agreed to share details of this with the group after the meeting; SW also advised she was awaiting a response from RB but would further chase this in order to move this matter along. It is a case of whether the Police would be happy with the alternatives suggested.

SKG: RB advised at the last meeting he was taking on additional staff to deal with Encompass alerts due to time lag between schools being notified and the MASH team being notified, and the response back to schools. Could we have an update regarding this (not specific to Early Years)?

KG agreed to contact RB regarding this query and would email the Group with the response once this is received.

Action 5: Missing Children: unknown as to status of this action, to be followed up by the Group.

Action 6: Heads Up Access Independent Schools: KG advised communication has been made with Independent Schools regarding Covid-19 and safeguarding; this is progressing.

Action 7: We-Learn Secure Email: Unknown whether this has been actioned. KG/LF to contact Emma for an update on action status.

Action 8: Item on today's Agenda.



Action 9: National Prevent Referral Form: GT advised Sally had emailed regarding a CTU National Prevent form. Input is currently awaited from Dave Brown (local CTU Prevent Officer) in order to consider how this can be adapted to have just one referral form for the County; Sally will then be advised further.

Action 10: Pathway to Change: KG and SP met; amendments to questions made at the end stage; completed and improved as a result.

ACTIONS:

ALL/LF (Action 1): Facebook suggestion: Group to revisit the Minutes for consideration next meeting; LF to bring forward to the next meeting.

KG/LF (Action 2): Operation Encompass – Read Only access: outstanding action, status to be followed up with RB.

KG/LF (Action 3): Operation Encompass – Cross Border issues – outstanding action, status to be followed up with RB.

SW (Action 4): Operation Encompass Early Years: To further progress email alternative with RB.

KG: Operation Encompass – Additional Staffing: KG to follow up with RB as to whether additional staff have been taken on to deal with Encompass Alerts.

KG/LF (Action 5): Missing Children: outstanding action, status to be followed up with RB.

KG/LF (Action 7): We-Learn Secure Email: update from Emma required regarding the 4 outstanding schools.

3. Warwickshire Safeguarding – Education Sub-Group Terms of Reference (ToR) – Elaine Coleridge-Smith/Ian Budd

As agreed at the last meeting the ToR have been reviewed; the revised document was shared with the Group.

This document is aligned with the wording for the other 3 Sub-Groups i.e. Exploitation, Case Review and Early Help and Prevention.

Purpose of the Group is to work on behalf of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive which comprises of the 3 Executive partners from Police, Health and the LA.

The purpose of this Group is to:

“Provide strategic oversight, scrutiny and direction for schools, colleges, and settings to ensure robust and innovative services designed to safeguard children and young people”.



Sub-Groups:

All sub-groups are from birth through to adulthood; designed this way in order that they can work together with overlapping transitional periods and times; anything relating to the Education group can be continued on with adult staff if this is necessary.

Exploitation Sub-Group covers all aspects of exploitation i.e. criminal, sexual. Case Review Sub-Group looks at all referrals and at Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

The reasoning behind all of the sub-groups is that they develop some synergy – that they can cross refer and talk with each other i.e. what is learnt in one can be shared with another and issues raised in one can be referred to another for more in-depth consideration; they will allow for dissemination of issues, learning and practice across most of the professional groups involved in safeguarding.

The sub-groups are not stand-alone committees and are integral to the model; they are set up by the Executive Group and the Chairs are agreed and determined by the 3 Executives and are accountable to them.

Terms of Reference:

The Group is to contribute to the development and review of policies, procedures and guidance to ensure these are used effectively by schools, colleges and settings. Invitations may be forthcoming from AS to join in the Group that looks at policies when these occur and need to be reviewed. Importantly it is ensuring that policies and procedures are available, that they are in schools and settings and can be used effectively in schools and meet the requirements.

Performance of Services – managing and monitoring through the collation and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data; looking at the annual audit of schools and how to develop that i.e. as before or differently, there is a need to self-analyse what has happened in the education setting.

Ensuring the implementation and recommendations from the annual audit; a number of audits have now been completed and a Quality Improvement Learning Hub has been developed; responsible for ensuring that learning from audits are shared and evaluated for effectiveness. This sub-group will be asked to contribute to the Learning Hubs.

Participating in the thematic reviews – the next one to commence is Core Practice and persons will be required to help and participate in this piece of work. Dissemination of the learning from the review is important across all the schools and settings; also disseminating learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Feeding back to the Executive from this Group to provide assurances learning has been undertaken from the audits or reviews; also, not only that it has been considered but that learning has been implemented effectively.



The need to make sure we have a joined-up approach in everything that we do; this will mean participating in some of the work other groups are doing and vice versa with them assisting this Group with any specific work requiring their involvement.

Establishing time limited task groups supporting delivery of WS strategic priorities– nothing current but these issues may crop up from time to time.

The Group would be required to be involved in developing and sharing of communication campaigns; if something interesting came from the work of this Sub-Group, it would be good to share this with the other Groups, that they pick it up and it is spread as widely as possible.

Task and Finish Groups: Clear set of principles which align to the Warwickshire Safeguarding strategic priorities.

Membership duration – quarterly, termly as a minimum i.e. every 3 months.

These meetings to be supported by the Warwickshire Safeguarding Business Team -support from AS and her team if required.

Chairing of the Sub-Group and Quoracy: Chairing is agreed by the Executive and IB is the current Chair for this Sub-Group. Query was raised as to whether there is a Vice Chair role within this Sub-Group? IB requested that colleagues consider this request and if interested contact IB in order that arrangements can be put in place in time for the next meeting. IB highlighted the important principle that there is alignment with of this Sub-Group with the other Sub-Groups, making those links across. In order to be Quorate, there needs to be the Chair or the Vice Chair and somebody from each of the three key partners i.e. the LA, the Health Service providers and the Police.

Membership: Important to have a wide breadth of membership to disseminate and cross share information. MP raised the query as to Special Schools not appearing on the representation list; IB responded that Special Schools are either maintained schools or academies so they are not excluded at the moment but the key principle is that all age ranges are represented as are Special Schools, so this list needs to be further redefined to take this aspect on board.

Education Safeguarding Manager role now redundant, ECS wondered whether a DSL may be a useful representative to have on the Sub-Group? KG advised they have now introduced the role of MASH Education Lead which takes on very similar responsibilities but thought the suggestion of a DSL representative on the Sub-Group sounded like an interesting idea should colleagues wish to consider this suggestion? Comments in response were that there are already DSL's on this Sub-Group; there are not DSL meetings as such but as representatives on an Area Behaviour Panel, this is the way information is disseminated. ECS



advised the membership needs to be small enough to be effective but large enough to cover the range of work that is involved in Education and with people who will assume responsibility for spreading and sharing information.

ECS agreed to take this away and further discuss with IB to ensure there is the right people around the table.

SW: We need representation from the PVI sector; IB responded that it is the same principle again that the breadth of providers needs to be represented; PVI is one sector within Early Years.

MR: Alternative provision – unregistered sector - we have the AP Free School but not possibly online until January 2023, suggested they could however be represented on this Sub-Group in the meantime? There is the unregistered sector in alternative provision and the independent specialist sector – it was suggested that it may be worth having Commissioning on the Sub-Group; Commissioning is part of quality assurance and there are compliance checks around health and safety and safeguarding that should happen on an annual basis including the annual Audit and the Action Plan; they could therefore be checking that their providers are doing what is required as regards the Action Plans on a regular basis. ECS advised that these Sub-Groups need to be provider driven as it is essential to hear from the actual people delivering services; this needs further thought. IB commented that the terminology was interesting as the AP Free School would be a registered AP provider which is fine, but for unregistered providers, we should not be using them. ECS advised that this would be something that would be picked up when looking at our own Audits and quality assurance work, that we would want to ask the Commissioners for evidence of how they evaluate and assess the services that they commission in that they are behaving correctly. KG commented the key is to address gaps that have existed in our coverage.

MK advised that DSL Network meetings are going to be set up and RG is about to get these up and running, this would therefore be a good avenue for disseminating and sharing information; ECS responded that it would be helpful to have one of those DSL members on this Sub-Group. MK also advised they have just set up a DSL Task and Finish Group currently with 12 DSL's on the group, MK could also ask these colleagues if they would be interested in being a representative on this Sub-Group. ECS commented that this is exactly what is trying to be arranged i.e. a 'spider's web' of networking reaching out to as many different groups.

KG advised we do need to think about coordination as there are currently Headteachers on this Sub-Group who are also DSL's.

ECS: Responsibility of people on this Sub-Group – they must be able to represent a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and to promote the welfare within their organisation. They need to be able to speak for their organisation with authority and they must have the authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisation. They need to be able to hold their organisation to account; to



be able to talk for their organisation with a high level of authority and be honest, open and accountable.

KG advised that MR to be invited to the next meeting to further the discussion already held above on Alternative Provision.

ACTIONS:

ALL: Vice Chair: Colleagues interested in this role to contact IB in order that arrangements can be put in place for the next meeting.

ECS/IB/KG: To further discuss membership representation on this Sub-Group in more detail.

KG/LF: To invite MR to the next meeting to discuss Alternative Provision. LF to add this item to the Agenda 18.1.21.

4. **Warwickshire Safeguarding Update / SCR Update:** *Elaine Coleridge-Smith*

ECS shared Powerpoint with the Sub-Group.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) were the old SCRs.

They are a statutory function of the Board and the Board is responsible for managing, coordinating and overseeing it. The Board is also responsible for identifying partner agencies to take part in it and for ensuring the capturing of the voice of practitioners involved in the cases as well as capturing the voices of the children and family. They are responsible for driving learning, currently via 7-Minute Briefings and Lessons Learned.

Rapid Reviews: Colleagues may get invited to join a Rapid Review. A Rapid Review is the first thing established when a referral is received by the Business Team from MASH, schools etc. It is a time tight exercise to gather information about the case; anyone that might have been involved with the family are written to. This information is then discussed at a Case Review meeting to determine whether or not the case meets the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review. If appropriate, information is then shared with ECS for approval and agreement to undertake a Review or whether there are other ways to best learn from what has happened with the child/family and agree on a different type of review i.e. lessons learned, tabletop etc.

Timescales for Rapid Reviews are set in statute. Within a couple of days of the referral, date needs to be set for the Rapid Review; within 5 days the information sharing template needs to be have been sent out and people asked to complete and return as soon as possible; by the 15th day the Rapid Review meeting should have been undertaken. At the moment, most of the meetings are taking place via Microsoft Teams; returns being received back have improved in quality and



usefulness to such an extent that enabling this work via Microsoft Teams has proved much easier. ECS expressed her appreciation to those colleagues who may have been involved in this process for speed and time taken in getting these sent back promptly.

The purpose of a CSPR is predominantly to see how professionals and organisations work together to safeguard the child. It is about looking at gaps in a system that have allowed something to go wrong for a child in the family; at the same time it is to look at how we are working with other children in the family and with other colleagues across Warwickshire. Its purpose is not to look at issues of blame, anything criminal or any public enquiries or apportioning blame. Consideration is given to what has happened and to lessons that can be learned; time is then spent looking at how to introduce changes into practice so this can be prevented happening again. Also try to identify good practice and share this information. Once completed, it will be published on the Warwickshire Safeguarding website; it will be anonymised and redacted so as not to identify the child/family or individuals involved, but it will identify services.

This year, 18 referrals have been received up to August; not all have gone on to Local CSPR's, some have had Rapid Reviews, others linked together due to commonality of issues particularly those for exploitation, also looking at doing a larger thematic review.

ECS explained the ones highlight in red were referrals since Covid-19 began in April. Many comments received have reflected the message that due to the lack of face to face contact with children during the school closure, the sense of something not being quite right has been hard to extract when communication is made electronically or through a door.

4 published reports since September 2019; key things of learning professional curiosity, understanding policies, strategy meetings, quality, voice of the child. Some reoccurring themes are:

Professional Curiosity – more difficult to make sense of during Covid-19 period as most of what is picked up is based on intuition i.e. feeling something is not right. However, some cases have shown that professional curiosity probing has not been done as carefully as it should have been done for various reasons; looking at this to make sure people have the confidence to voice their concerns with their teams.

KG: Regarding the 6 C's in Newham (London), one of them is Curiosity – this has been built into their methodology, their way of working. *KG to share the link to this information with ECS.*



Escalation – about what people do when they have a feeling that something is not right, they do not think they are being heard or are unsure what to do with that situation; how to move it on and escalate. Work has been done on a new Escalation Protocol which is now published and can be used. AS advised that there are 3 stages to the Escalation Protocol – Stage 1 is practitioner directly through to practitioner, then it is escalation to the Line Manager etc. Recognised however that in schools this may be one and the same person depending on who is responsible for the DSL role.

Comments from the Group: Escalation is embedded in DSL training; “if the child is struggling, be curious not furious”, “low and slow”, “strike whilst the iron is cold”. IB advised this also links to the new model of working.

Identification of Neglect: This keeps cropping up; it is a matter of constantly being alert to what it might look like, what it may look like early on etc; not allowing ourselves to be clouded by the idea that parts of our County should not be coping with neglect because we are.

Working with Adults – There is some work around aggressive adults that are controlling with children and hide them from us.

7-Minute Briefings – these are sent out after every learning exercise from Case Review; excellent for team meetings together with the Lessons Learned briefings which contain a lot more detail about a particular case review.

AS advised lessons learned have just been published and corresponding 7-Minute Briefings reference a large-scale neglect case that was being reviewed across Warwickshire. *Colleagues are encouraged to visit the website to access that information.* The guidance is specifically around child neglect, parental capacity to change professional curiosity, the importance of history and the voice of the child. A reminder will be sent out shortly (published on 16.10.20).

ACTIONS:

KG: To share the link to the 6-C's with ECS.

ALL: Visit the website to view Lessons Learned neglect case published on 16.10.20.

5. Safeguarding Training and Support Update

MASH Education Lead – Sue Hunt: SH introduced herself to the Group; Education Lead Officer on MASH; temporary appointment initially for 3 months until the permanent post can be advertised and filled; liaison point between DSL's in school and the MASH. Lots of schools are getting in touch now and asking for advice and discussing any concerns they may have, and the hope is that this will deflect calls into the MASH. Helping to give DSL's confidence and reassurance



they are doing the right thing. Will also have an overview into EHE and Missing Children. SH will be going with RG into schools to meet up with DSL's.

Support for Schools – Roy Garner: RG introduced himself to the Group; RG's background is that he was a Headteacher for 28 years in 5 different schools and is now a Headteacher Mentor; forming a bridge between Early Help and schools. RG will be visiting schools to speak to Headteachers and DSL's to promote the Early Help route to avoid going straight through to MASH and when appropriate to speak to SH; but when it is appropriate to be dealing with it themselves or through the Early Help route through the TSO's etc.

SH and RG to join this Sub-Group and attend the meetings.

Strategic Direction and Annual Safeguarding Audit: Kim Garcia

Safeguarding Offer and Planning 2021-22:

KG advised we need to broaden the scope – the focus on schools is really important but it needs to broaden. Need to bring in a focus on post-16 and FE due to safeguarding in relation to these areas. There may also be other areas in terms of education settings, they all matter.

The safeguarding offer is being integrated – with the broadening of the scope, there is a need to coordinate with other service areas e.g. Children and Families, Education Services, MASH, Early Help, External providers, Warwickshire Safeguarding and the Safe Education Partnership.

Annual Audit: A communication will be sent out shortly to education settings regarding this to explain what is happening.

In the last cycle 2019-20 this was in fact an 18-24 month cycle. However, we need to move to an in-year cycle in order that it can inform planning for the following year in education settings.

We also need the Audit in terms of scope and broadening to include other areas such as Children and Families, MASH, Early Years etc. The strategic reporting on the findings from the Audit needs to be focused on the places where they need to find out what the strategic findings are, the key headlines are for policy and planning e.g. the Education Challenge Board, the Education Services Senior Leadership Team, Children and Families Senior Leadership Team, Corporate Board, Children's Overview and Scrutiny; KG suggested that IB may want to take this to DLT as appropriate.

The plan for this year 2020-21 – KG advised he is in the process of arranging an internal meeting for an Initial Planning Group to discuss the first step of the planning. Following this, it will then expand into a full Planning Group which will require Headteacher representation on this Group. Communication is required with Headteachers in schools, with education settings etc about how the annual Audit is being planned, how it will be carried out and how it will inform planning for the offer for next year. Headteacher, education leaders need to know this at



an earlier point and not at the last minute, the timings set up are working to that objective.

November 2020 – looking to identify and agree the key questions to be part of the Audit and the method to be used for the survey. If the scope is broadened, the questions may need to be revised.

The full Planning Group will work in December into January 2021 on the detailed preparation of the survey. The draft survey will need to be signed off later in January before issuing to schools at the end of February/beginning of March.

The survey will be required to be returned by schools by the end of March.

The full Planning Group will then reconvene with Headteachers in April where findings will be reviewed, distilled and reporting the findings back to education settings internally, key colleagues involved in the process and strategic destinations already mentioned above.

This will inform the planning for 2021-22 safeguarding offer that goes out to education settings; need to make sure the DSLs and other support implications around safeguarding are briefed prior to start of school term September 2021.

During the period end of May/early June, the LA Model Policy needs to be agreed and will require Legal approval; would want DSLs and Headteachers and other Leaders of education settings to view this in draft form. Also looking at the Training Programme and how this will feed in and inform the training programme for 2022.

The Annual Audit needs to be more active, proactive and supportive tool; not a dense document but informative which collects information that needs to feed in and inform delivery of future offer. IB advised the Audit is important to ensure we are all doing all that we can keep children and young people safe, risks are identified and mitigated; it has to make a difference and this can be achieved via the feedback loop.

KG advised that IB will receive a copy of the planning and communication summary which will be sent out to schools in order to assist with comms and links with networks and coordination groups.

Training and Development – Marina Kitchen

MK provided an update on the DSL training; the Early Help and Targeted Support Service, particularly the Targeted Support Officers, took over the delivery of the DSL training due to the restructure and it was redesigned over the summer holidays. Along with this, a fresh and positive spin was put on the DSL role.

The DSL Initial training was reduced to one day as a result of DSL feedback. 14 sessions have now been delivered with over 190 delegates attending. Due to the demand, 2 more DSL Refresher sessions have been added into the programme. It was hoped to reintroduce face to face training, particularly for the full day sessions, from January but unfortunately due to Government guidelines and the pandemic, this has not been possible and therefore face to face training is being moved to take place from Easter onwards; this will however continue to be guided by Government guidelines at that time.



The feedback received so far is that people really like the virtual model, but there are some who prefer face to face therefore from April 2021 onwards (adhering to permitted guidelines), a hybrid model will be delivered i.e. continuing with some face to face and some virtual delivery.

DSL Task and Finish Group - 12 DSLs are on this group from Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Special, FE colleges. They have met twice so far; ensuring with this group that the information being provided to DSLs is “hitting the button”, it is what they want, and they are given opportunity to shape the delivery of the DSL training moving forward.

Resources are specifically being looked at and where these are located on the Warwickshire Safeguarding pages; the DSL Group have made some suggestions of how they would, as DSLs find accessing the information on the web pages far easier and more accessible. Some of these options are being explored at the moment in order that delivery can fit with what they need.

Collaboration has also been established with the Stowe Valley MAT who have expressed their interest in working with us around safeguarding which is very positive. They are recording an Early Help Podcast on 23.10.20 that we will be able to share. They have recorded Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) as podcasts which they will also share with us and that we would be able to put on our website for all schools to access. DSLs and teachers in schools were able to access KCSiE via the podcast instead of having to read it.

Feedback: MK shared with the group some of the feedback received from the delivery of training so far. The actual training itself has been very well received with some very positive feedback received however some mixed feedback on the delivery via Zoom i.e. some people really like it as it is helpful and efficient, that they can stay in their settings and attend to priorities if they need to whilst attending the training; for others due to the subject matter they find it more challenging and would therefore prefer face to face training. Everyone however is appreciative of the fact we are in a national pandemic and that we are doing the very best we can, given the exceptional circumstances. Other comments received include that the general themes and messages are now all aligned; that there is more clarity of where DSL colleagues and Headteachers can go if they need help; rediscovery of the motivation for the DSL role again.

There is an overall 40% increase in confidence through the training which includes the Refresher and Early Help training which is very positive as these are colleagues who have already been doing that work in the field.

The learning from the feedback is that a full day is a challenge for some people on Microsoft Teams so consideration is being given to splitting this into two half days. Also looking at adding in more case studies as this has been requested. There have been some technical issues which have caused problems but



colleagues have been very accommodating and supportive when these have taken place.

Headteacher Coach Role (Roy Garner) – this role came about from independent research done in Warwickshire with DSLs which resulted in response that DSLs needed support to increase capability, capacity and confidence; RG’s role is about making sure that schools have got that early help and safeguarding infrastructure in place and that they are happy with that and that RG can support, advise and guide if they require this assistance. Also, that RG can link to the locality context in order that the new Early Help systems in place now connect to those partnerships that we are developing.

We also have one to one support which DSLs and Headteachers can access if they have experienced a challenging situation which could be classed as vicarious trauma when supporting a family – this could be coaching, counselling, group or reflective supervision. Also going to be organising and delivering Trauma Informed training by Consortia area; RG will also be supporting by delivering DSL networks and will link in with SW in Early Years to ensure a joined-up approach.

MASH Education Lead (Sue Hunt): Contact details – 01926 418608 or email masheducationlead@warwickshire.gov.uk

6. Early Years Update / Children Missing from Early Education – Sonia Wasczszak

SW shared document with the group “Children Missing Early Education (CMEE) – Guidance for Early Years Providers” which has been agreed by the Early Years Board. It has also now been sent out to providers as it could be delayed no further. Approval is required from this Group in order for it to be forwarded to the Safeguarding Partnership for their approval.

It is guidance that has been reviewed in the light of some high-profile media cases where very young children have been missing from Early Years and childcare settings; due to consequential parental death, one child has died whilst lying alongside their parent. It is basically flagging this up, but it does require the approval of the Safeguarding Board. SKG advised that having read it, it is an excellent document and it is much needed. IG confirmed it was formerly supported by the Group.

7. Prevent Education Focus Group - Update: Geoff Thomas, Warwickshire Prevent Officer

GT updated the group on the most recent Central update that is received from the Counter Terrorism Unit. This quarterly update confirmed that this first half year there has been 10 Prevent referrals in Warwickshire; last year for the full year there were 65 so there is a large drop off in the numbers. The reasons are



that people are not visible during the first 4 months of the year. Also reporting that there has been an increase in the amount and focus of conspiracy theories linked to online extremist causes; this is not just in a virtual space, physical activities of groups such as Patriotic Alternative in Warwick, District Combat 18 in Nuneaton, 100 Handers in North Warwickshire and Britain First in Southam – countywide representation of extremist activity on the ground. There has been an increase in hate crime due to Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter – a combination of issues.

GT is looking to ensure he can be involved in supporting colleagues to understand the dynamics that are taking place currently with Covid-19; not only via the DSL Prevent training, there is a Prevent Conference on the 23rd November and it would be helpful if colleagues could attend this.

If there are opportunities across wider groups of DSL or school colleagues where a discussion can be had regarding the heightened vulnerability potentially of young people to extremism content, then GT is available to discuss that.

IB advised materials will be made available for colleagues through our networks also, by promotion of the Prevent Conference

ACTIONS :

IB: To make Prevent materials available through networks.

IB: To promote the Prevent Conference through networks.

8. Forward Planning and Future Agenda Items: Ian Budd and Elaine Coleridge-Smith

Items to be brought forward to the next meeting:

- Marie Rooney to be invited to the next meeting.
- Further discussions on Early Years Children Missing Education theme.
- Further discussion on Prevent.
- Exploitation – Annette Firman to be invited to the meeting.

IB thanked colleagues who have contributed to planning and delivery over the summer and into the autumn. Also thank you to everyone for contributing and participating in the meeting today.

9. Dates/time of next meetings:

18th January 2021
20th April 2021
21st June 2021
18th October 2021