



Philip Seccombe  
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# Warwickshire Prevent News

## March 2021

Welcome to the latest round-up of news from Safe in Warwickshire, Prevent. For more information about Prevent, visit our website [www.safeinwarwickshire.com/](http://www.safeinwarwickshire.com/)

### **Local Context:**

Within Warwickshire, each of the Local Authorities, together with Police, Education and Health sectors are looking to work with communities to deliver the Governments Prevent Strategy. Prevent is essential to provide support and assistance to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed in violent extremist activity – to help safeguard individuals before any harm to them or to others can occur.

In this Newsletter we set out some of the recent developments that have taken place affecting Prevent over the last 6 months, both nationally and locally. This has been a period of unprecedented change affecting our communities and there have been significant developments concerning the risks around radicalisation and safeguarding our communities.

- New National Channel Panel Guidance
- the impact of COVID-19
- How Many Prevent referrals are there?
- What Do People think of Prevent?
- Education, Schools and Prevent
- the range of Prevent training courses, including the new DSL course and how to book onto them;
- Independent review of Prevent.
- The 2020 Prevent Annual Report and Prevent Action Plan.

### **New National Channel Panel guidance**

The Channel Panel is the statutory multi-agency group that considers how best to safeguard vulnerable individuals referred to it. Within Warwickshire the Panel has a planned meeting each month but can be convened urgently should there be a need. The full information on the new Channel guidance can be found [here](#) Some of the key highlights from the new guidance are:-



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- There is an enhanced framework to promote consistency and best practice across the country in compliance with the guidance.
- There is a new section which sets out the minimum core competencies for panel chairs and deputy chairs, directing levels of skills, experience, and completion of Home Office training for these roles
- Introduces guidance for local governance and proposes minimum requirements to direct panel form and function, including auditability.
- Provides for a wider range of training opportunities for representatives of responsible authorities that take part in Channel Panel work to safeguard individuals receive appropriate and timely professional development.
- Provides guidance and best practice materials on issues such as Information Sharing protocols, engagement with individuals and quality assurance.

Within Warwickshire we welcome this guidance which echoes much that has been in place locally for some time now. The Panel is undertaking a detailed assessment of its operation in the light of the guidance and ensuring that we fully embrace all aspects of the guidance. Further details on the Panel will be reported in a future newsletter and can be found on the Safe in Warwickshire website.

If you want to make Prevent referral, or find out more information then go to [safeinwarwickshire.com/prevent/](https://safeinwarwickshire.com/prevent/)





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### Prevent and COVID-19

In the last Prevent newsletter, we outlined in some depth the impact that the first lockdown arising from COVID-19 had made. We reported on the increase use of social media by extremist groups to target vulnerable individuals, encouraging hate towards others.

These challenges have persisted over the last six months, and it is widely recognised that during the current emergency we have experienced: -

- More online hate material
- More vulnerable people at home being exposed to such material
- The dramatic escalation in conspiracy centred content that draws people into extremist networks
- **A reduction in the number of Prevent referrals**

Through this period, and in the work of the Channel Panel we have experienced the impact that lockdown is having. We have observed how it can lead to isolation, encountering extremist content, seen changes in behaviour, and potentially harmful actions as a result. As partners, we can and do work incredibly hard to help safeguard such vulnerable individuals with positive results that can really help to keep people safe. If you feel concerned about an individual who you have **Noticed** may be influenced by potentially violent extremist influences, then do **Check** that with your manager, your safeguarding lead, and if something doesn't feel right then **Share** your concern – by making a Prevent referral. The referral is there to help stop vulnerable young people and adults from coming to harm, so please use it.

If you have any queries you have on this, then do contact Geoff Thomas.



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### How Many Prevent Referrals Are There?

Each year, the Government published the information regarding the number of Prevent referrals made, and you can find the full breakdown for the data up to March 2020 on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Regional breakdowns for referrals can be found on Table 7 of the attached spreadsheet.

Since the introduction of the Prevent duty in 2015, 2,352 referrals have resulted in individuals identified as vulnerable to radicalisation receiving support. These statistics cover a period before the current pandemic significantly affected the UK, and coronavirus has brought difficult new challenges. However, thanks to the work of your teams, prevent has continued to operate and provide this much needed support.

### Key Findings

- In the year ending 31 March 2020, there were a total of **6,287 referrals** for individuals to Prevent. This is an increase of 10% compared to the previous year (5,737 in the year ending March 2019).
- The number of referrals that went on to be discussed at a Channel panel (1,424) and adopted as a Channel case (697) were the highest recorded since comparable data is available.
- For the first time, the Police accounted for the highest number of referrals (1,950; 31%), followed by the Education Sector (1,928; 31%).
- In 2019/20, 1,487 individuals (24%) were referred for concerns related to Islamist radicalisation and 1,387 individuals (22%) were referred due to concerns related to right-wing radicalisation. A total of 3,203 (51%) referrals were for individuals with a mixed, unstable, or unclear ideology, however almost half of these (1,521; 47%) had no concern identified following an initial assessment.
- A total of 697 referrals were adopted as a Channel case and for the second consecutive year since comparable data is available (year ending March 2016), more adopted cases were for individuals referred for concerns related to right-wing radicalisation (302; 43%) compared to individuals with concerns related to Islamist radicalisation (210; 30%). The remaining adopted cases were for individuals with a mixed, unstable, or unclear ideology (127; 18%) and other radicalisation concerns (58; 8%).
- As in previous years, most referrals were for males (5,514; 88%), and over half of all referrals were for individuals aged 20 years or under (3,423; 54%).



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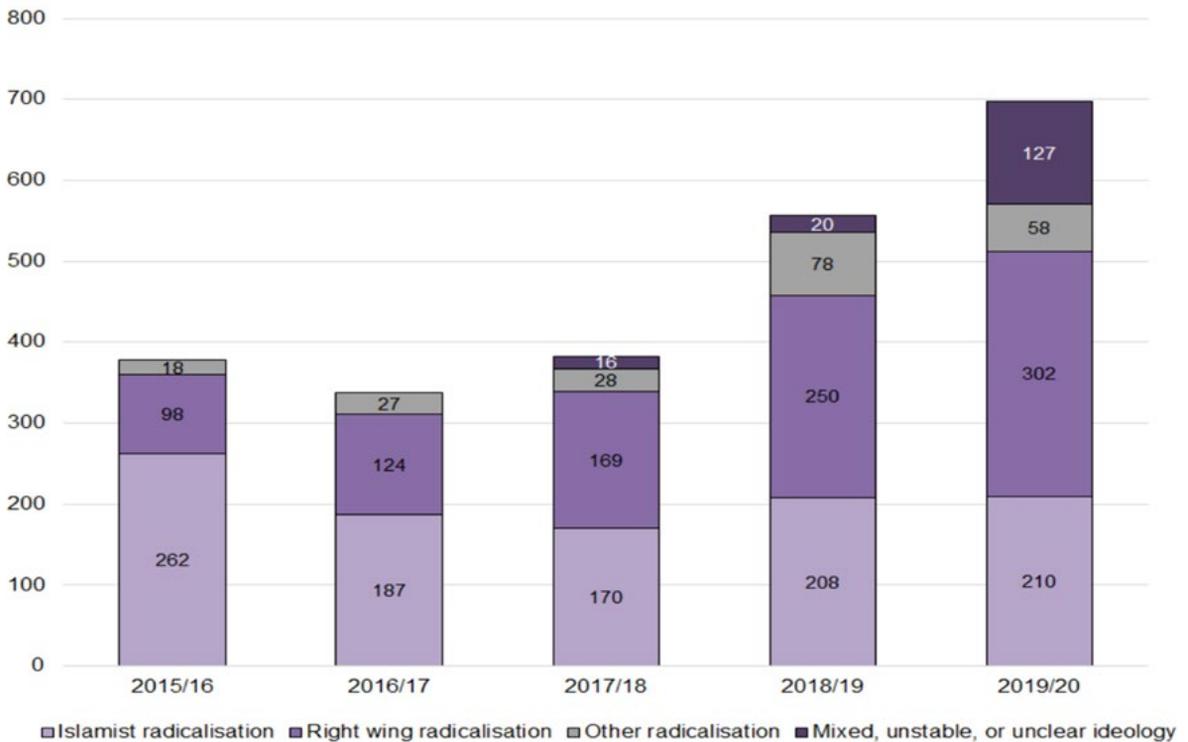
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- Of the 550 referrals adopted as a Channel case in the year ending March 2020 that subsequently exited the process, 450 (82%) exited with no further radicalisation concerns.

The breakdown of the information graphically is shown below

**Figure 8: Channel cases by type of concern, years ending March 2016 to 2020**





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### What Do People Think of Prevent?

last October the Government published the findings of the Prevent Public Knowledge and Interactions survey, you can find the link [here](#). The survey polled members of the public who already had some degree of awareness of Prevent. The findings were generally encouraging and add to the body of research flying in the face of criticisms that Prevent is a 'toxic brand' lacking community support. Some key findings include:

- 58% of the public viewed the programme favourably, compared to just 8% who viewed it unfavourably.
- When asked to describe Prevent, the most selected answer amongst respondents (46%) was that it was a safeguarding programme.
- Both teachers and healthcare professionals benefit significantly from training; confidence in spotting the signs of radicalisation and making a referral increased by 20-30% in those that had received training.
- The results showed that as knowledge about Prevent increases so too does support for the programme, and in turn likelihood that individuals will seek help for someone they are worried about.
- While the results show that Prevent is widely supported amongst all demographics of those already aware of the programme, there is more work to do in increasing awareness, improving access to training for professionals, and broadening understanding of the safeguarding role that Prevent plays in addressing all forms of extremism.

There was an extremely useful follow up article to the report produced by Will Baldet, the West Midlands Region Prevent Coordinator which you can find [here](#)

Within Warwickshire we are committed to supporting open conversations about Prevent across Communities and groups. If you or your organisation want to undertake more engagement on the issues surrounding the safeguarding role of Prevent then contact Geoff Thomas to discuss.



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### Education, Schools and Prevent

#### DfE: School and College Closures: Ongoing Prevent Management Support – January 2021

Following the announcement of the January school lockdown, the Department for Education updated its advice for school leaders on Prevent management during COVID-19 to reflect current COVID-19 guidance for schools and colleges. You can find this link [here](#)

#### Education Resources

You can also find a range of helpful resources

**Educate Against Hate:** The following resources have been added to Educate Against Hate.

- **Learning About Inter Faith-** <https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/learning-inter-faith/>
- **Votes for Schools Secondary-** <https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/votes-schools-secondary/>
- **Barking and Dagenham Primary Resources: British Values Games-** <https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/barking-dagenham-primary-resources-british-values-games/>
- **Hope Not Hate, Robbie's Story:** EAH have recently published a new video resource, CPD session plan and recommend reading. Robbie's Story, created by HOPE not Hate, centres around the case study of former far-right extremist Robbie Mullen. The teacher video and CPD session plan could be used for teacher training sessions to raise awareness of extreme right-wing issues and actions to take for concerns. [\[Link\]](#)
- **LGfL Spotlight on Safeguarding:** Spotlight resources that consist of short videos with discussion questions to engage conversation around different areas of safeguarding. [\[Link\]](#) There is a specific video on [Prevent/Extremism-](#) Why schools should never ignore a concern which includes a anonymised individual who has been involved in extremism.
- **IOE, Centre for Holocaust Education:** New book which provides key lessons for teaching the Holocaust including helping to combat myths and misconceptions held by students. Produced after the recent Hope not Hate report and the increasing amount of interest in conspiracy theories. [\[Free Download\]](#)



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### Prevent Training available in Warwickshire

Despite the pandemic, we have continued to deliver Prevent training across all parts of the County. Indeed, we are pleased to say that we trained more people in the last 12 months than previously. This has been greatly influenced by the move towards online training events – with the largest single group being some 200+ Warwickshire GP's receiving a briefing. The training is continuously refreshed to feature current issues and specifically to cover local matters.

Our latest training module is a new course specifically for **Designated Safeguarding Leads in school and education**. It aims to provide an enhanced level of awareness and knowledge on issues of radicalisation and safeguarding arrangements. Colleagues interested in booking onto this course should contact Sophie Morley via [Sophiemorley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sophiemorley@warwickshire.gov.uk).

We have also developed bespoke training for a variety of sectors or groups including:

- Early Years
- Children's Commissioned Service Providers
- School Governors
- Foster Carers
- Elected Members

These events are in addition to the wider **corporate training programme** which runs throughout the year. If you would like to take part in a training session, or arrange an event specifically for your team, then contact Nicola Stocker on [nicolastocker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicolastocker@warwickshire.gov.uk)



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There are also e-training courses available to all. These are shown below

### PREVENT E-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are three Home Office Prevent e-learning products now available, as listed below:

**Prevent awareness eLearning** - The Prevent awareness eLearning has also been recently been refreshed. This includes updates to reflect the recommendations from the Parsons Green review, updated information following the change in threat and attacks of 2017, and new case studies. A link to the training is below.  
<http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Prevent Referrals** - The training is for anyone who has been through the Prevent awareness eLearning or a Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP), and already has an understanding of Prevent and of their role in safeguarding vulnerable people. It is aimed at anyone who may be in a position to notice signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and aims to give them confidence in referring on for help if appropriate. It is also designed for those (for example line managers) who may receive these referrals and have to consider how to respond, whether that be establishing more context, or reaching out to partner agencies for support. The link to the training is

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/preventreferrals>

**Channel Awareness** - This training package is for anyone who may be asked to contribute to, sit on, or even run a Channel Panel. It is aimed at all levels, from a professional asked to input and attend for the first time, to a member of staff new to their role and organising a panel meeting. It covers both an introduction to what Channel is, how it operates in the user's region, and how to organise a Channel Panel for the first time. In response to feedback, it also covers information sharing, including how, when and with whom to share information of a Channel case. A link to the Channel Panel training is below.

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness>



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### Independent Review of Prevent

- The Government has confirmed the appointment of William Shawcross as the [new Independent Reviewer of Prevent](#), following a full and open competition.
- The aim is for the Review to be completed by August 2021, subject to discussion with the new Reviewer, and the precise date will be announced in due course taking into account the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainties it brings.
- It is anticipated that any engagement conducted by the Independent Reviewer will be virtual for the time being. The new Independent Reviewer of Prevent will publish the plans for how he will deliver this important review in due course. These plans will take into account the conditions in the country and how best to engage with communities and stakeholders, gather evidence and thoroughly consider the Terms of Reference. As this information is made known we will publicise this locally including on the Safe in Warwickshire twitter page found [here](#)



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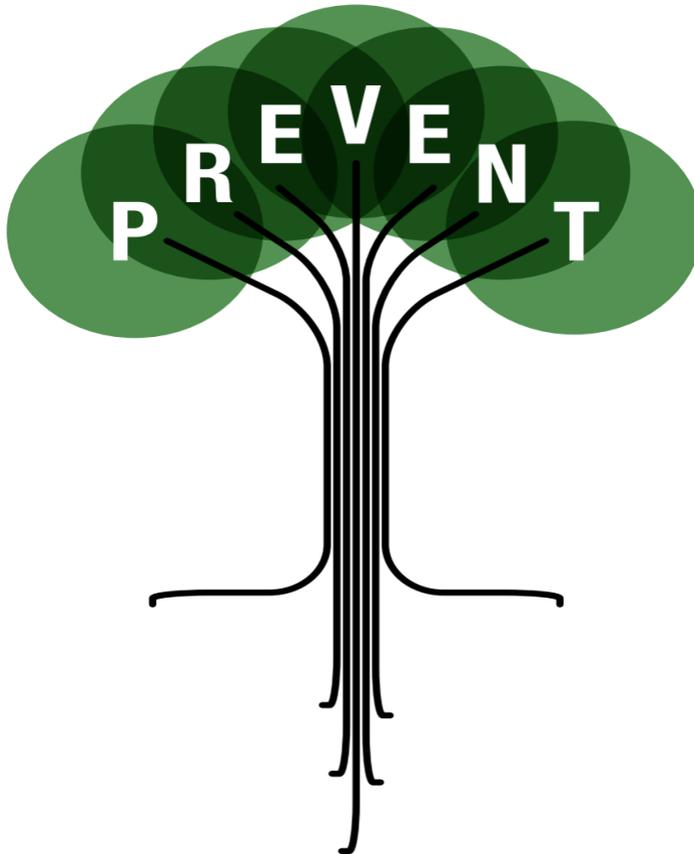


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### Warwickshire Annual Report and Action Plan

If you want to find out more about Prevent in Warwickshire, you can look at the recent 2020 Annual Report produced and approved at the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board. This is available at the Safe in Warwickshire website.



**WARWICKSHIRE  
PREVENT ANNUAL  
REPORT 2019–20**





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### CONTACT DETAILS:

If you would like to find out more about Prevent in Warwickshire then you can contact:-

**Geoff Thomas - Prevent Officer**

[geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01926 412432

OR

To book onto a Prevent training course you can contact:-

**Nicola Stocker - Specialist Business Support Officer**

[nicolastocker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicolastocker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01926 412338