

Safeguarding Against Extremism

Guidance from the Leicestershire Safeguarding Board 2014

At a national, regional and local level agencies are working together to:

- Prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into extremist or terrorist related activity
- The Government's Prevent Strategy is now embedded within the Local Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland with the Safeguarding Boards Business Office having published the procedures for Safeguarding Children Vulnerable to Violent Extremism
<http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

The Prevent Coordinator for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is Will Baldet and he is based at the St Philips Centre in Evington. Will sits on the LSCB Voluntary Community Sector Subgroup to ensure that Safeguarding is integral to the strategy and the voluntary sector is included in its delivery.

He can be contacted via email at prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk

There is one overriding priority for Prevent at the moment, which is to support those vulnerable individuals who sympathise with the group called ISIS / ISIL in Iraq and Syria and who may seek to travel and join them.

ISIS is a particularly insidious group because their recruitment is targeted specifically at young people, using the language and imagery of video games and knowing that children and teenagers will not have the critical thinking skills to challenge distorted narratives

We know that some schoolchildren have viewed and shared the gruesome beheading videos that have circulated on social media and we want to protect all young people from exposure to this brutal imagery.

As well as these clear risks to young people, we must not lose sight of the growing threats from far right extremism. Groups such as the English Defence League still persist and have also splintered into smaller, arguably more dangerous, factions which dominate social media with a constant stream of racist and Islamophobic material designed to divide society and fuel hostility towards immigrants and some faith communities. When that material breaks the law it should be reported to the Police. When we fear that someone is being drawn into inciting or supporting acts of violence because of these hostile views, then Prevent can offer help to safeguard them whilst at this vulnerable stage and before any crime has been committed.

A useful guide to far right extremist symbols and meanings can be found at <http://www.adl.org/mobilehatesymbols/symbol-results-1.html>

In Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, the Prevent teams work with local schools, colleges and safeguarding staff so that young people can be protected from all forms of extremism (whether it is far right extremism, animal rights or faith based) and to ensure that early intervention is possible if someone appears to be vulnerable to radicalisation. It is important to note that engaging with Prevent does not result in a criminal record; in fact, the very purpose of Prevent is to ensure that a vulnerable person never crosses that threshold into criminality and is safeguarded using appropriate interventions

Anyone interested in learning more about the Prevent strategy's role in safeguarding vulnerable people in LLR can register for free training via the Children's Workforce Matters website
(<http://www.childrensworkforcematters.org.uk/training-and-development/prevent>)

What factors can put people at risk?

There is no single profile of a terrorist or violent extremist, but we know that factors which may make people more vulnerable include:

- **Substance & alcohol misuse**
- **Peer pressure**
- **Influence from older people or via the Internet**
- **Bullying**
- **Crime & anti-social behaviour**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Family tensions**
- **Race/hate crime**
- **Mental Health Issues**
- **Lack of self -esteem or identity**
- **Grievances (personal or political)**
- **Migration**

Early intervention can help to keep all our communities safe, so if during the course of your work you are concerned about the welfare of an individual there are a variety of ways you can refer your concerns by contacting:

- Your organisation's Safeguarding Lead
- Will Baldet, Prevent Coordinator for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who is based at the St Phillips Centre in Leicester prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk
- Prevent Engagement Team on 101 extension number 6726 or email PreventEngagement.Team@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk



ISIS using imagery from popular video game 'Grand Theft Auto' to appeal to young people