



EALING'S CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING CHAMPIONS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Raise awareness. Share learning. Together we can make a difference.

Quote of the month:

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better”

Maya Angelou.



Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter.

We hope you all had an awesome break over August. In this newsletter we've been honoured to collaborate with and bring you information from our colleagues in Prevent. We're also sharing your tips about self-care and looking after each other as well as shout-outs for amazing practice. We hope you enjoy.

Cat, Catherine, Shannon and Suzy.

Looking after ourselves and each other

Following last month's piece on the topic, we've loved hearing about what self and team-care looks like for you.

YJS recently arranged an away day including time in the park and learning activities. The Contextual Safeguarding Team had an 'office day' in August including a team lunch and the first in-person team meeting since before the pandemic.

Mast Adolescent check-in every morning as part of Ealing's Brighter Futures model. They focus on how each team member is feeling and their needs for the day ahead.

We've also loved hearing about personal strategies for self-care including lunchtime yoga, meditation, stretching and getting outside for a walk.

All these little things add up over time to make a difference. As a group of champions we've found having conversations about self-care have inspired us to check-in with ourselves and make positive changes.

What one thing might you be able to do for yourself or your team today to help you be able to keep showing up and being the best possible version of you while you do this challenging work?



September's Shout Out

Monique Butler and **Jose Pleite** recently joined Ealing's Mast Adolescent Team. They have both hit the ground running with their cases which primarily involve extra-familial harm. Between them they have managed to efficiently co-ordinate a number of strategy meetings with key partners and focused their work around young peoples' needs. We are very fortunate to have you both here at Ealing and would like to encourage you to keep up the great work.

If you know of examples of outstanding practice when there is risk of or actual harm outside the family, we would love to hear from you so we can all celebrate colleagues' achievements through this newsletter.

How can we help young people to be safe from radicalisation?

Anisa Syed (top) and Sonita Pobi-Busigu (below) are Prevent Education Officers in Ealing.

Please can you explain your role(s) and team? The Prevent team works with professionals in the council, NHS, education, community groups and charity sector to help raise awareness of the risk of radicalisation. As Prevent Education Officers, we support schools with implementing the Prevent Duty including staff training, student workshops, curriculum and policy guidance and help with enquiries/referrals.

How would you define radicalisation? Radicalisation is the process of being influenced or groomed to support extremist ideologies and terrorism. The influence can come from a perpetrator who may be known to the individual. People can also be self-radicalised.

How and why can children/young people be vulnerable to radicalisation? Each case varies. The vulnerabilities that may make a child/young person susceptible to radicalisation are similar to other types of extra-familial harm. In the same way poverty can contribute to making someone vulnerable to running county lines, extremists may use this same vulnerability to radicalise such as blaming immigration for poor economic outcomes or offering money to be involved in creating extremist propaganda.

Increased time spent online over the course of the pandemic has increased potential risk of radicalisation. There may be a lot of unsolicited material, extremist propaganda and conspiracy theories available on both mainstream and encrypted platforms which can easily influence a young person to hold extremist views.

What signs and behaviours might indicate that a young person is at risk of being/has been radicalised? Examples of concerning behaviour include presenting views where the young person believes they are superior and/or has an overt intolerance and lack of respect for the beliefs of others including difference in ethnicity and/or other protected characteristics. The use of extremist rhetoric/language can be an indicator. Examples of this could include openly supporting/advocating for terrorism and/or the use of scripted speech, which can also be spotted through their online activity/conversation in person. It's helpful to be curious about unusual amounts of time being spent online especially with online gaming, the dark web and other encrypted platforms. Another risk could be family members known to be part of extremist groups

Please can you tell us about CHANNEL panel in Ealing? Once a referral is made using the national referral form (found on the Prevent page on EGFL,) the content of the referral is assessed and, if found suitable, it is placed before the CHANNEL panel which is made up of a wide range of professionals from different disciplines, such as social care, mental health and police services. The panel is able to bring together large amounts of background information about the individual to enable a package of support to be prepared and offered. At an early stage consent is sought and, hopefully, supportive interventions can be put in place to help with issues such as ideology, self esteem, critical thinking and/or support with health and wellbeing.

Are you able to share some current trends or new emerging groups in Ealing that would be helpful for professionals to be aware of? We have seen some International affairs continue to cause mixed emotions within the community. An example is the new situation in Afghanistan. Many in the Afghan community have expressed anger at how Western allies departed Afghanistan and others joy that the war is over. Although we haven't picked this up yet within Ealing, far right members nationally have expressed anger that the UK is receiving more refugees and questioning why the UK was involved in the war.

Increased graffiti with far right narratives have been seen across the borough. Satanism/occultism tagging is something that has come to notice. Community providers have seen increased interest in this amongst vulnerable individuals with complex needs particularly around substance misuse.

Online space continues to be a gateway for radicalisers – gaming can be a tool for perpetrators to target young people (desensitisation to violence).

There is a new emerging space referred to as Mixed, Unclear and Unstable (MUU) ideologies. For example incel ideologies and misogyny of younger boys – a concern raised by local community groups where younger girls are reporting concerns of being targeted by boys. More work needs to be done to further understand this. The recent Plymouth incident also highlighted some links to incel ideologies of the perpetrator. Although this does not fit the definition of terrorism, some of these views can be linked to other extremist narratives.

Are there any activities/resources/services you could recommend to workers supporting young people who are at risk of radicalisation? The Channel process enables tailored support. Prevent commission projects/run workshops for both young people and professionals in the community to build resiliency and awareness of radicalisation, as well as mentoring sessions for young people (contact us for more info on this). As PEO's we also run workshops and assemblies with young people (more info on EGFL page).

You have both recently joined Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network. What's that been like so far? The Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network has been extremely informative in helping us as it brings a range of professionals from different backgrounds in one place and enables us to understand what work colleagues are doing and to see the links with our work. We hope to improve our partners' understanding regarding radicalisation and our working relationship with other professionals in order to improve the overall safeguarding of our residents in the borough from harms outside of the home.



What makes a good Prevent referral?

Paul Smith (pictured) is the Safeguarding Manager for Prevent in Ealing.



People who work with vulnerable young people are typically familiar with safeguarding guidance and making a referral to the local authority's social care department when they believe the people they support may be at risk of harm.

The duty of safeguarding is a good starting point when considering a Prevent referral. The process of radicalisation often features comparable risk indicators associated with sexual or criminal exploitation including, for example, a grooming phase. It's common to see parallels in the way that the subject may exhibit vulnerabilities and be influenced by an external factor. The radicaliser may be known to the subject or someone who has been introduced to them. Commonly, an online relationship may develop which is reinforced by a range of online material that can feed into the subject's insecurities, identity, self-esteem and grievances.

Staff who have undergone Prevent training online or in person will know that understanding how vulnerabilities occur and how behaviour is interpreted is important. We use three words to remind ourselves of the referral structure – NOTICE, CHECK, SHARE.

After vulnerabilities or concerning behaviour has been spotted it's important to check your thinking through. Engaging with the subject and talking through what might be going on is sometimes useful. Speaking to colleagues to check through your first impressions is always advisable – especially if you have a safeguarding specialist in-house.

Finally, trust your instincts – many good referrals start with just a gut feeling. Be assured that the Prevent team are here to guide you through the process if needed.

If you have an enquiry related to a child or young person who is at risk of radicalisation, please contact the Prevent team to get further support: prevent@ealing.gov.uk / 020 8825 9849.

All Prevent referrals for children are usually submitted alongside a Safeguarding referral to ECIRS: ECIRS@ealing.gov.uk / 020 8825 8000.

You should also fill in a [Ealing Prevent Referral Form](#), which can be found on our [webpage](#). Please send this to ECIRS@ealing.gov.uk and cc: prevent@ealing.gov.uk



Contact

Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Core Champions are:

Suzy Grihault: Operations Manager, Youth Justice Service

Catherine Imobeke: Contextual Safeguarding Advisor, Contextual Safeguarding Team

Shannon Upton: Senior Social Worker, MAST Adolescents Team

Cat White: Contextual Safeguarding Advisor, Contextual Safeguarding Team

If you have any questions about this newsletter or the Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network, **[please email us](#)** and one of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.