

# Kent and Medway Prevent Annual Report 2020

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Annual report

The Kent and Medway Prevent Annual Report 2020 is the first annual report produced to capture the activity of the Prevent Team and partnerships in Kent and Medway. The report documents the key achievements and measures for the January – December 2020 period, and is structured around five thematic areas of delivery:

- Delivery structures and partners,
- Training,
- Education,
- Community engagement, and
- Channel.

Several key achievements are identified, along with a look forward to planned delivery in 2021. It is hoped that production of this report will enable a broader understanding amongst partners and services of the work delivered.

2020 was a challenging year for counter terrorism in the UK, as well as more generally. The Covid-19 pandemic saw significant impacts to the way services are delivered. The ability to engagement in face-to-face interventions, meetings and training was reduced. The Prevent Team adapted to this challenge quickly, in-line with the existing Business Continuity Plan in place, working remotely for the majority of the year and finding new ways of working. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is explored within each of the sections, however, is not the primary focus of this report.

Two terrorist attacks occurred in the UK in 2020. The first in February 2020 saw 2 people stabbed and the attacker shot dead by police in Streatham, South London. The second in June 2020 saw 3 people killed and a further 3 seriously injured in Forbury Park Gardens, Reading, with the attacker arrested at the scene. The perpetrator subsequently pled guilty to murder and attempted murder, and was sentenced to life in prison in January 2021. Whilst no attacks were perpetrated in Kent or Medway, in May 2020 a Kent resident, George Fowle, was sentenced for right wing terrorist offences. Fowle had pled guilty to downloading explosive manuals, and held a copy of the Christchurch terrorist attack in New Zealand, along with over 400 hundred images of far right figures, emblems and social media posts.

The terror threat level remained at SUBSTANTIAL for the majority of 2020, having been lowered from SEVERE in November 2019. In November 2020 the momentum of terrorist groups following attacks in mainland Europe led to the threat level being increased to SEVERE.

## 1.2 Prevent in Kent and Medway

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 set out a legal duty for specified authorities, including local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to **prevent** people from being drawn into terrorism. Local authorities are expected to lead these efforts, with Medway Council and Kent County Council (as the upper tier authority for Kent) taking responsibility for coordinating Prevent activity across the county.

In April 2019 Kent and Medway was designated a Prevent priority area which brought additional Home Office funding to increase local Prevent resources, namely a Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer. In 2020 further funding was received leading to the addition of a second Prevent Education Officer and a Prevent Community Engagement Officer. The Kent and Medway Prevent Team deliver Prevent activity and support agencies locally in understanding and responding to the risk of terrorism and radicalisation. Below is a summary of the current make-up of the team:

**KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager -**  
Co-chair of the Kent and Medway Channel Panel. KCC strategic lead for Prevent, counter terrorism coordinator for KCC, chair of South East Prevent and Channel Chairs meeting. Lead officer for the Kent Community Safety Agreement priority of Preventing Extremism and Hate.

**Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Medway Council Children's Services -**  
Co-chair of the Kent and Medway Channel Panel.

**Prevent Business Support Officer -**  
Provides business support to the Prevent Team: coordinates and minutes the Kent and Medway Channel Panel meetings, Prevent Duty Delivery Board and KCC Cross-Directorate Group meetings.

**Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator -**  
Coordinates Prevent activity across Kent and Medway agencies, responsible for the Prevent partnership plan and Prevent partnership training. Chair of Medway Prevent Cross-Directorate Group and Medway Community Safety Partnership representative. Supervisor for Channel case management.

**Prevent Community Engagement Officer -**  
Responsible for providing support, guidance and developing relationships across Kent and Medway communities and partners, as well as building resilience against extremist influences.

**Prevent Education Officers -**  
Support education establishments across Kent and Medway up to secondary level to implement Prevent through teaching, training and guidance. There are two officers, one covering Medway, North and West Kent, and one covering South and East Kent.

**Local Authority Channel Coordinators -**  
Case manage Channel referrals, assessing the vulnerability and risk of an individual to radicalisation. Coordinating and working closely with statutory agencies, including Home Office accredited intervention providers to create bespoke intervention plans for all individuals recognised as needing relevant Channel support. The two coordinators cover Kent and Medway jointly.

The additional roles within the team have brought added resilience and capacity, enabling Prevent to have increased representation and participation with other relevant services and areas of business. Development and improvement opportunities have been pro-actively sought out, with all team members engaging in local, regional and national training events. Home Office organised events have included the Channel Chair conferences, Prevent Coordinator conferences, and workshops on topics such as 'Managing the influence of extremism'. The Department for Education provided training has includes webinars on topics such as; 'How to make good/outstanding lessons in UK schools', 'How to work with Further and Higher Education', and 'Supporting Individuals: School Massacre Ideology'. Other thematic events attended have included; 'Right Wing Extremist response to the pandemic', 'Online Radicalisation Workshop', 'Leadership and Diversity in a crisis', and 'Improving our understanding of how families are supported in Prevent'.



The specialist and often sensitive nature of work being dealt with by the team has been recognised, and in March 2020 a bespoke group counselling event was held for team members responsible for Channel case work. Following feedback from the event it has been agreed to run further sessions and extend the involvement to all Prevent Team members in 2021.

## 2. Delivery structure and partnerships

### 2.1 Kent and Medway Prevent Governance

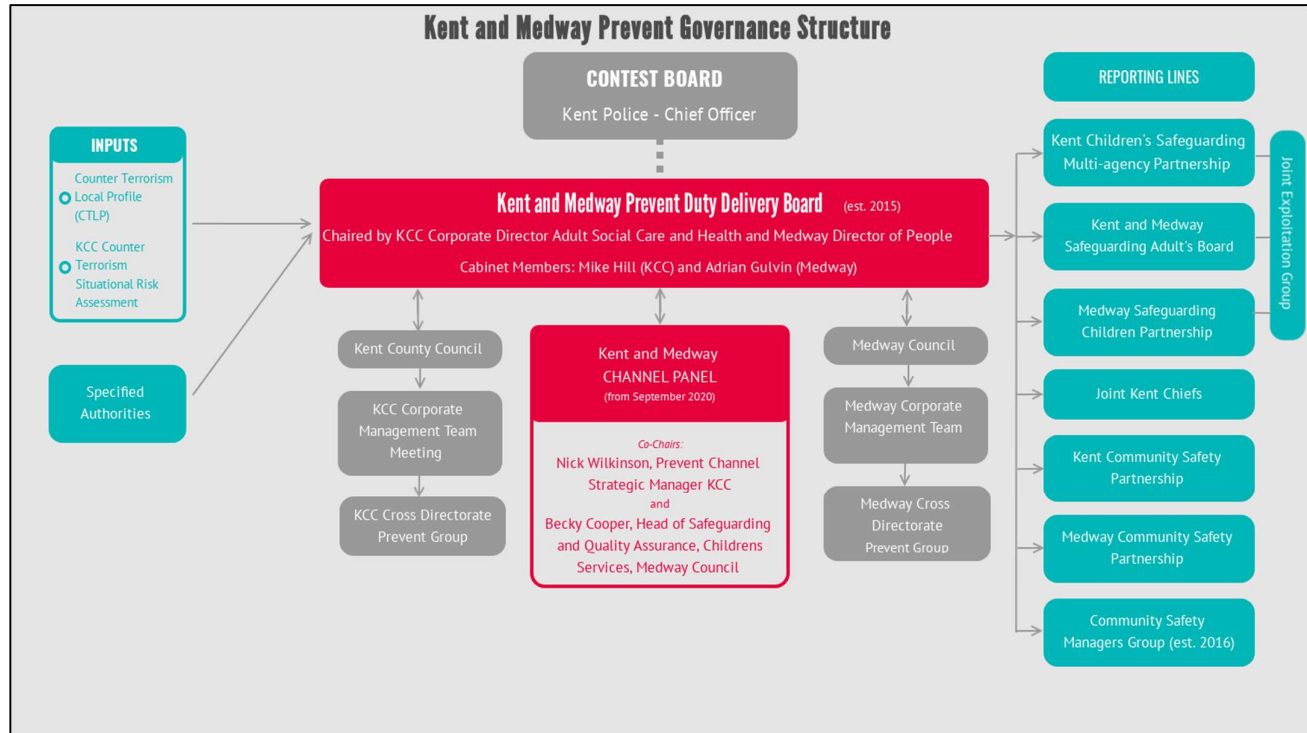
The Kent and Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDB) was established in 2015 and is made up of statutory and other local partners involved in Prevent across the county. It is co-chaired by KCC and Medway Council, it functions to:

- set the strategic direction and priority for Kent and Medway's Prevent activity;
- agree the level of risk within Kent and Medway and develop a partnership action plan to identify and address levels of risk;
- coordinate activity across a range of strategic bodies to ensure continuity of approach in preventing vulnerable people being drawn into terrorism;
- coordinate response to the requirements of new or revised guidance from central government, including any change to the levels of risk within the county;

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- ensures that frontline staff understand Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of support to deal with this issue;
- holds local agencies to account for their work aimed at reducing the risk of people becoming radicalised or supporting violent extremism, ensuring this work is effective, coordinated and based on strong partnership working;
- oversees the activity of the Kent and Medway Channel Panel.

The governance chart below outlines the governance arrangements in place.



In addition to the local connectivity, the Prevent Team have continued to be a part of regional and national networks, bringing the voice of Kent and Medway into these forums, and relaying learning and good practice back to local partners. The KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager is a member of the national Counter Terrorism Advisor Network (CTAN) which provides a 'critical friend' and independent advisory capacity to the UK counter terrorism infrastructure. At a regional level the South East Channel Chairs forums have during 2020 transitioned into a broader South East Prevent Network, established and chaired by the KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager. The network gives the opportunity for South East Prevent Leads and Channel Chairs to share good practice, discuss strategic and operational matters, as well as providing a forum for national and regional Counter Terrorism Policing and Home Office stakeholder engagement. The Prevent Coordinator has continued to be a member of the London Prevent Network, sharing learning with other Prevent Coordinators and building links to other areas. Kent has continued to be a member of the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism,

with the Prevent Team participating in both the quarterly roundtable events, and the more frequent Far Right Working Groups.

## 2.2 Kent County Council

KCC has continued to place importance on the Prevent responsibilities and activities for Kent. A quarterly Prevent item and report is presented to the Corporate Management Team and Prevent is an item on the Corporate Risk Register. The KCC Prevent Cross-Directorate meeting continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis, with good representation from across the authority.

## 2.3 Medway Council

Medway Council have made significant progress in 2020 following the completion of a Medway Council Prevent Needs Assessment, which used the Home Office Prevent Duty Toolkit self-assessment to identify areas of work needed. A Medway Council Prevent Cross-Directorate Group was established in 2020, chaired by the Prevent Coordinator, with representation from across the council.

## 2.4 Working with district councils

The Prevent Duty makes clear that local authorities are expected to take the lead role in Prevent partnerships. Medway Council clearly holds this role as the unitary authority in Medway, and whilst in Kent it is the upper tier authority – KCC – that is responsible for the leadership role, there is clearly still a need to connect with the district councils and partners. The diagram below shows the difference in responsibility of the Prevent Team and working model between the lead and district authorities.

Ensure compliance with Prevent Duty	Kent County Council	Medway Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social care</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Public health</li> </ul> <p>Lead role for Kent County in statutory Prevent Duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social care</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Community safety</li> </ul>
Offer advice and guidance on Prevent responsibilities	District Councils	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Community safety</li> </ul>	

Responsibility for the 12 district councils in Kent has been divided between the KCC

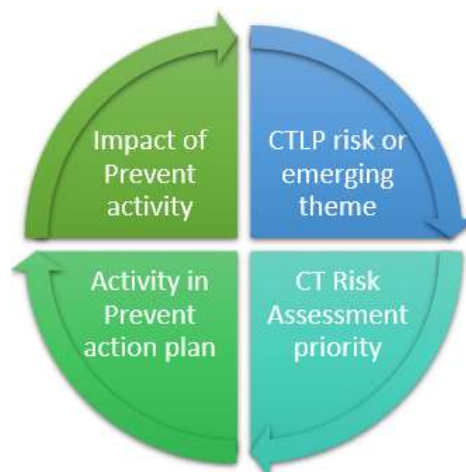


Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager and Prevent Coordinator, with each being

the lead point of contact and liaison for designated authorities, including attending local Community Safety Partnerships or briefing district Members where appropriate. CSP attendance varies between the authorities, in some districts the Prevent representative is a standing member and contributes a regular agenda item, whereas in other Prevent attendance is required only once or twice annually. The exact working relationship with each district is determined based on the level of risk or activity in that area, as well as the local CSP model. The Prevent Community Engagement Officer further supports these relationships by attending CSPs in the absence of the lead contact, engaging on specific issues of concern (see section 5), and attending Community Safety Unit meetings where appropriate. In addition to the direct work with district authorities, the Prevent Coordinator regularly attends the county Community Safety Managers' forum to provide updates on Prevent activity and risk.

## 2.5 Kent and Medway Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan

The Prevent duty also requires partnerships to have in place an annual Counter Terrorism (CT) situational risk assessment, which is separate to the police produced Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). In priority funded areas this is an expectation of the Prevent Coordinator to undertake. In 2020 the first Kent and Medway CT Situational Risk Assessment was produced in April. The assessment included the emerging themes and risk areas identified within the CTLP delivered in March 2020, drew together district level information provided by district community safety colleagues, and identified 11 priority risk areas for the PDDb to direct activity around. These were subsequently incorporated into the local Prevent action plan.



It was also recognised that the Risk Assessment should be shared in an appropriate format with district colleagues in order to enable informed partnership working and assist district authorities in meeting their statutory obligations to understand CT risk in their area. In July 2020 a dedicated CT Situational Risk Assessment briefing was held for district Community Safety Managers, the Kent Police Prevent Lead, Kent Police District Commanders, Kent Police Community Safety Unit Inspectors, and a small number of other colleagues. The briefing shared the key aspects from the risk assessment, covering each district individually and allowing time for discussion with colleagues. It has been agreed that this will be repeated in future as this was felt to be an effective delivery method which colleagues found to be of great use.



The Kent and Medway Prevent Partnership Plan 2019-21 was the first Prevent partnership action plan for the area since the implementation of the duty in 2015. In

2020 the plan was refreshed to incorporate the identified risks and priorities from the annual CTLP and the 2020-21 Kent and Medway CT situational risk assessment. The resulting Kent and Medway Prevent Partnership Plan 2020-21 sets out the required activity across the county in 2020-21 and is set out under eight thematic headings:

1. Prevent partnership structures and plans
2. Specified agency responsibilities
3. Prevent referral process and Channel
4. Training
5. Education
6. Sector engagement
7. Community engagement
8. Communications.

The plan is monitored through the PDDb with progress reported at the quarterly board meetings, where partners are held to account for their areas of responsibility.

### Security Minister Visit

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 the Prevent Team hosted a virtual visit from the Security Minister – the only Prevent visit undertaken by the minister in 2020. The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) asked Kent and Medway to host the visit in order to showcase the local Prevent delivery and partnerships. Colleagues from both authorities provided briefings on the local risk and governance structures, Channel Panel, a significant Channel case study, and specialist training developed regarding online gaming. Feedback from the visit was positive, with the below comments received from the Minister's office:

*“Great range of inputs from a clearly committed team. He was particularly struck by Laura Wright’s input on gaming – this intelligently, articulately and succinctly communicated a complex topic and one that he is aware we are continuing to get to grips with in OSCT.”*

## 3. Training

### 3.1 KCC and Medway Council

Both KCC and Medway Council have included Prevent mandatory e-learning and broader training offers into their learning and development programmes for some time. In 2020 both councils reviewed their Prevent training, with the current approach

outlined below:

Kent County Council	Medway Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory Prevent e-learning (in-house product)</li> <li>• Prevent Workforce Development Strategy implemented 2016, revised 2020</li> <li>• Quarterly Prevent programme offered</li> <li>• Service specific inputs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory Prevent e-learning (national product)</li> <li>• Prevent Training Programme 2020-22 in place – corporate and children &amp; adult workforce</li> <li>• Service specific inputs</li> </ul>

KCC first established a Prevent Workforce Development Strategy in 2016 which focused on implementing the mandatory Prevent e-learning requirement and developing an in-hour e-learning product, alongside other added value events such as quarterly Prevent briefings focusing on emerging and changing risk needs. This strategy was revised in 2020, taking into consideration evaluation and impact data from the existing training that had been delivered. The revised strategy provides a tiered approach to training, offering varying levels of learning tailored to the range of roles within the authority, with differing methods of delivery aligned to the most effective learning methods and considering Covid adaptations to ways of working. In addition the Prevent Team have continued to work with other services and directorates to provide bespoke service specific inputs, as well as featuring as part of other training and development events.

Medway Council have a baseline requirement for staff to undertake the national Prevent e-learning training, including it into the induction programme for new starters to the council. In 2020 the Prevent Coordinator worked with Medway Workforce Development colleagues to put in place a comprehensive Prevent training programme which considers the needs of the broader corporate workforce, as well as the enhanced needs of the children and adults workforce, with dates in place through to 2022. Delivery was initially postponed from March to July, owing to the Covid pandemic, and all the resulting sessions have been held virtually. Service specific inputs also continue to be offered. The progress of the training programme is a standing agenda item for the Medway Prevent Cross-Directorate Group, which considers the reach and impact, as well as any further needs which should be incorporated or addressed.

### Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia Seminar

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 the KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager and Prevent Coordinator spoke at a KCC seminar for Members and staff on Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, alongside external and internal speakers. The Prevent input focused on how issues of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia have manifested in communities in Kent, and the opportunities created for extremism and radicalisation.

### 3.2 Prevent Partnership

In June 2020 a training needs survey was conducted of PDDB partners, to identify what level of Prevent training is in place, where gaps existed, and what format and topics would be of most use to include into a Prevent training offer. The survey informed five recommendations to be taken into consideration within the Prevent partners training offer:

1. Training offer to include face-to-face or interactive training options, as opposed to being reliant on e-learning modules.
2. Training to be offered both as delivering for individual organisations, as well as in partnership events.
3. Training to focus on recognising vulnerability to radicalisation, extremism online, understanding terrorist ideologies and making a Prevent referral, as a priority.
4. Options for virtual delivery to be available for face-to-face or interactive delivery. This is especially relevant owing to Covid-19, but longer-term also provides greater options for attendance given the large geographic size of Kent and Medway.
5. Training to include understanding of terminology and symbols associated to terrorist and extremist groups.

A comprehensive Prevent training offer (Appendix One) was developed and formally agreed by the PDDB in September 2020, with an initial programme of partnership training sessions planned for October to December 2020. The offer includes varied levels of Prevent training, from general awareness to more detailed understanding of vulnerability to radicalisation, as well as thematic sessions to cover emerging and locally relevant issues, i.e., extremist exploitation of Covid-19 and extremist use of online gaming. The evaluation feedback from the initial sessions was presented to the December PDDB, with the approach being agreed to continue, and further additions to be included to the offer around other subjects and emerging issues as identified. The feedback collected showed that 91.5% of attendees completing an evaluation felt the training **met** or **exceeded** their expectations, and 84% of attendees completing an evaluation felt the learning was **very** or **extremely** valuable to their role. As a result it was agreed to continue to run sessions in a quarterly programme for partners, alongside agencies being able to book specific sessions for their organisation.

**84%** of attendees felt training was **very** or **extremely** valuable to their role

#### Extreme Identities Online Seminar

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, National Internet Safety Day, the Prevent Team delivered a seminar entitled 'Extreme Identities Online' which covered extremism and radicalisation in online spaces and case studies of Channel cases where online activity has been a key attribute of the case. The seminar was well attended by KCC staff and Kent Police Community Liaison Officers.

### 3.2 Prevent training delivery in 2020

Session title	Number of sessions delivered	Number of attendees
Prevent Awareness	12	263
Prevent & Radicalisation workshop	6	93
Extreme Identities Online workshop	4	51
Extremist Exploitation of Covid-19	7	387
Extremist Use of Online Gaming	3	128
Other bespoke input	34	1265
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2187</b>

Audiences attending Prevent training in 2020 have included:

KCC	Christ Church University
Medway Council	University of Kent
Swale Council	Greenwich University
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	Canterbury College
Kent Police	Kent Housing Group
Kent Community NHS Foundation	West Kent Housing
West Kent GPs	Kent Association of Local Councils
Probation Service	Kent Business Crime Group

#### SIGCE Far Right Online Seminar

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 the Prevent Coordinator spoke at a national seminar arranged by the Special Interest Group for Countering Extremism (SIGCE) Far Right Working Group. The seminar looked at a range of issues regarding far right movements in the UK, with the Prevent Coordinator's input specifically covering Right Wing Extremists and online gaming spaces.

*"This is the second time I have attended your training, and it is truly so interesting, eye opening and engaging. Thank you for your time. I look forward to the next one!"*

*"The session was truly brilliant. I can see from the comments that everyone had found it very thought provoke and stimulating and it was all that and more!"*

## 4. Education

### 4.1 Prevent Education Officers in Kent and Medway



The Prevent Education Officers (PEOs) are part of a network of PEOs across the country, with their roles funded jointly by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and the Department for Education. The overall purpose of their work is to build young people's resilience to terrorism through leading on engagement with schools and other education providers, including out-of-school education settings, and partners across Kent and Medway. Through the provision of proactive and reactive support the PEOs ensure that education settings and the staff that work in them understand the

local context and risks in relation to the radicalisation of children and young people, and that they embed good practice as part of their wider approach to safeguarding. The PEOs provide support to all of Kent and Medway's 782 schools.

The recruitment of a second PEO in 2020 has meant that the service has had the capacity to widen the range of resources, support and training offered. Links with Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) teams and other agencies working with children and young people and their families are well-established. Joint working established with The Education People and Medway Schools Safeguarding Officer has enabled the PEO role to be promoted widely.

### 4.2 Training and education delivery

The PEO service and training offer reflects the areas of risk, threat and vulnerability identified in the Kent and Medway CT Situational Risk Assessment and complements the wider Prevent activity across the county. The team offer a bespoke programme of training for all phases and stages of education from early years to year 13, for students and staff, as well as advice and policy guidance. The PEOs produce a bi-monthly newsletter which is accessible to all schools covering updates, emerging themes, and reminders of support available regarding Prevent. During 2020 the PEOs quick adaption to virtual delivery following the first tranche of school closures in March 2020 resulted in a sustained level of training provided to school staff and students.

	Number of training sessions delivered	Number of schools attended	Number of attendees
Primary school staff	7	32	376
Secondary school staff	8	15	612
SEN setting staff	2	2	95
PRU staff	1	1	25
Primary school students	5	2	150
Secondary school students	1	1	30
SEN setting students	4	1	40
Parents & carers	3	3	40
LA education staff	1	25	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1411</b>

### Medway Twilight Sessions

The PEO worked with Medway Education Safeguarding to deliver a number of twilight training sessions for Medway schools. The sessions were initially postponed and then adapted to virtual format in response to the pandemic, and were able to reach a range of safeguarding and leadership staff from a number of schools in Medway. The sessions resulted in direct enquiries to the PEO, as well as further requests for training.

### South Kent Primary Schools

In October to December 2020 the PEO developed and piloted parent Prevent workshops in a number of South Kent primary schools. This was followed by a parent toolkit to raise awareness of online extremism. The guide is designed to help primary and secondary schools supporting parents to minimise the risks that extremists can pose to children and young people as they navigate the world of online learning and increasingly rely on technology to facilitate their education and social lives.

*“Particularly useful to be directed towards the resources to further support our staff and communities. The presentation was clear and informative – particularly liked its relevance to local issues.”*

*“It was very thought provoking and the length was perfect – plenty to take in but not too long that you lose concentration – thanks.”*



*"It was useful to hear the local context and examples in addition to the first part of the session that covered the principles as per the online Prevent Training. The session was just the right length and I will be recommending that all our senior leaders sign up, if there is another opportunity."*

*"Thank you for the presentation it was really informative. I found the presentation both engaging and informative. It really highlighted the Medway situation which was really important as you can become complacent if you feel it is not relevant to your area."*

## 5. Community engagement

### 5.1 Prevent Community Engagement Officer (PCEO)

The PCEO is a new role for Kent and Medway introduced in September 2020 to provide additional resilience and consistency in Prevent community engagement across the large geographic area of Kent and Medway. The ongoing pandemic has impacted the capacity for the PCEO to work out in the community, therefore focus in 2020 has been on building a framework for future engagement. A Prevent Community Engagement Strategy was drafted and presented to the PDDB in December 2020, with work ongoing to secure final approval in early 2021. Building relationships with relevant partners has been a key feature in 2020, enabling idea sharing and planning for future work to ensure success in preventing radicalisation in communities.

During 2020 the Prevent Team began producing a weekly Online Tension Monitoring summary, which identifies Prevent relevant tensions and sentiment being seen in Kent and Medway associated online spaces, or in general online spaces but specifically in reference to Kent and Medway. It captures potentially negative and harmful themes which could escalate to extremism. The summary highlights to the Prevent Team and the wider partnership distribution events which could need further actions and is especially important given the online space is a growing and significant communication platform. The summary can give insight into community tensions and so can aid discussion with partners, such as CSUs, regarding engagement in methods to reduce grievances that may be exploited by extremist groups. Graffiti, flyers and stickering incidents relating to Prevent themes are also now being captured when reported by district partners, assisting with mapping recurring trends, and support is provided to district CSU colleagues around themes of concern.



## 5.2 Supporting local issues

The Prevent Team have continued to support local partners on specific issues of concern where relevant to Prevent. In the summer of 2020 the number of migrant small boat crossings via the Kent coastline increased and maintained significantly high numbers, prompting a range of reactions across communities and online audiences, including from right wing extremist (RWE) individuals and groups. Thematic reporting around migration via Kent was included into the weekly online tension monitoring summary, and when posts regarding planned protest events were identified, this was shared with Dover district colleagues, as well as post-event reactions to the demonstration that took place in September 2020.

Similarly the team have worked closely with Folkestone and Hythe district partners on issues attracting RWE attention surrounding the use of Napier Barracks to accommodate asylum seeking males. The KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager participated in an online community meeting regarding the barracks, in which reassurance was provided about the capacity to respond to all extremist sentiment and activity. The Prevent Team have continued to be a part of the local partnership meetings regarding the site, with the Prevent Coordinator being part of the Community Cell in response to a planned protest event at the barracks in October 2020.

### Anti-minority Activism Workshop

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the Prevent Team organised a workshop facilitated by Coventry University through the SIGCE on local responses to anti-minority activism. The workshop was attended by a number of KCC and district partners and built strong links and learning, which subsequently informed responses to the increased migrant crossings and Napier Barracks.

## 6. Prevent referrals

### 6.1 National referral form

A national recommendation from the review into the Parsons Green terrorist attack was to develop a national referral form and process, to be adopted to bring consistency across the country in the format and method of referrals to Prevent. Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE), the local counter terrorism unit covering Kent and Medway, has been leading the project to develop and pilot the form, and in 2020 commenced roll-out. In January 2020 the new national referral form was rolled-out to the Kent and Medway area, and whilst there were limited

procedural changes in terms of where referrals are routed to, there were resulting process changes with now sees CTPSE notifying Social Care of Prevent referrals, to avoid delays in any safeguarding needs being identified and acted upon. The Prevent Team have coordinated meetings between the relevant local authority social care colleagues in both KCC and Medway Council and CTPSE to map this process and reach agreed ways of working.

## 6.2 Channel

KCC has operated under the 'Dovetail' model, whereby the local authority Prevent Team are responsible for processing Prevent referrals that meet the initial threshold assessment, presenting referrals to the Channel panel and case managing adopted Channel cases, since October 2016. In 2019 it was agreed that the Prevent Team would expand coverage to Medway Council, with implementation initially planned for April 2020. The roll-out date had to be postponed owing to the Covid-19 pandemic impact on key services who have a role in providing relevant information to the Dovetail process. Dovetail roll-out to Medway was successfully achieved from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, providing a consistent approach to Prevent and Channel referrals for the whole of the Kent and Medway area.

Alongside the roll-out of Dovetail it was also agreed that Kent and Medway would move to a joint Channel Panel, replacing the two existing Kent and Medway panels. The joint Kent and Medway Channel Panel also commenced from September 2020, bringing a consistent approach to Channel discussions and case management. The joint panel also brought efficiencies for some partner organisations, such as health and police, who were previously attending two panels in a month.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the way the Channel Panel and interventions have operated during 2020. From April 2020 the monthly panel meetings, including the new joint Kent and Medway panel, have been held virtually. This has been a challenge given the number of standing panel members, alongside the significant number of individual case related attendees required at specific timeslots but has been achieved. As transition is made back to physical meetings there will be a retaining of some virtual capacity for the case specific attendees to reduce travel requirements for frontline practitioners. OSCT provided guidance to Channel Panels and Channel Intervention Commissioners on the approach to Channel interventions during periods of Covid-19 restrictions. Where possible telephone delivery was an option (but not tele or video conferencing), but where this would not work (for example due to the social or communication needs of an individual) and/or the national security risk with no intervention would be increased, it was permissible to continue with face-to-face interventions. The Channel Coordinators have worked to ensure the safe provision of interventions, balancing the public health needs against the potential national security risks, and individual safeguarding requirements.

In November 2020 OSCT published the revised Channel Duty Guidance, which sets

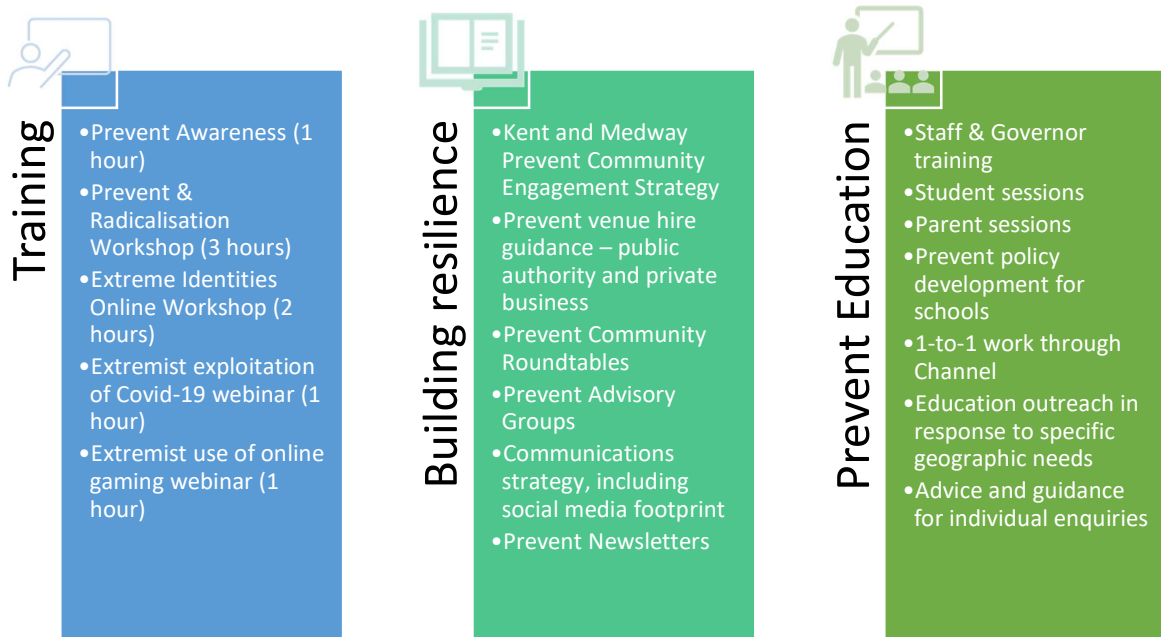
out the expectations and requirements of local authorities and partners in the delivery of Channel Panels and interventions. The Prevent Team had been preparing for the launch of this guidance, and on receipt began working to identify gaps between the new policy requirements and existing practice, in anticipation of the annual Channel Assurance Statement to be completed in 2021.

### Kent and Croydon Channel Training Day

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 a joint Channel training day was organised for Kent and Croydon Channel partners. The KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager provided an input around experiences of Channel case work with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, whilst attending with the wider team to engage in the broad range of CPD items covered during the day.

## 7. Looking forward

The Prevent Team ended 2020 considering the future activity planned across Kent and Medway. Alongside further funding bids for local projects to support Prevent efforts locally, the team have also made plans to recommence workstreams which were paused or delayed due to the impact of Covid-19. The diagram below gives an overview of the Prevent Team focus for the immediate future:



## 8. Summary

Undoubtedly 2020 has been a challenging year in which new ways of working have had to be quickly adopted. The Prevent Team were in a position of already having flexible working arrangements and a Business Continuity Plan in place, which assisted an efficient change to a new working model. The Prevent Team have taken a flexible approach to continue efforts to manage the risk of radicalisation and terrorism across Kent and Medway. Unavoidably some areas of work have had to be postponed due to the public facing nature, or the impact Covid-19 has had on council services, limiting capacity outside of critical functions. Plans are in place as outlined in section 7 to re-establish these activities as we are able to transition out of the pandemic restrictions.

Despite the challenges of 2020 the Prevent Team have delivered a significant level of work and met several key milestones. The additional resourcing and posts within the team have also enabled further resilience and capacity to be built, providing an increased level of support to partners and communities across Kent and Medway. Partnership working has continued to play a vital role in local Prevent delivery and the team have fostered excellent working relationships with national, regional and local partners. These strong relationships and governance will play a key role during the upcoming year in continuing to deliver activity which reduces the risk of radicalisation across Kent and Medway.

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## Appendix One

### Kent and Medway Prevent Training Offer

<b>Key:</b>		Training available		Training in development
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	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Duration</u></b>	<b><u>Delivery format</u></b>	<b><u>Description of training</u></b>
1.	Prevent Awareness	1 hour	Face-to-face or virtual, for up to 40 attendees	An awareness session, to cover; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategy and legislation. Including CONTEST, Counter Terrorism and Security Act &amp; Prevent Duty</li><li>• National counter terrorism threats</li><li>• Kent and Medway context and risks</li><li>• Making a referral and Prevent referral pathway</li></ul> <p>* This workshop can be tailored to some extent to suit particular agencies or services *</p>
2.	Prevent and Radicalisation	2-3 hours	Face-to-face or virtual, for up to 30 attendees	An interactive workshop, to cover; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategy and legislation. Including CONTEST, Counter Terrorism and Security Act &amp; Prevent Duty</li><li>• National counter terrorism threats</li><li>• Kent and Medway context and risks</li><li>• Terrorist ideologies and narratives, including DAESH and right-wing terrorism</li><li>• Radicalisation and vulnerability factors</li><li>• Making a referral and Prevent referral pathway</li><li>• Case studies</li></ul>

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3.	Extreme Identities Online	2 hours	Face-to-face or virtual, for up to 30 attendees	An interactive workshop, to cover; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremist use of online spaces, including social media and online gaming</li> <li>• How extremists tailor narratives to online audiences</li> <li>• Disinformation</li> <li>• De-mystifying memes and terminology</li> </ul>
4.	Extremist exploitation of Covid-19	1 hour	Webinar, for up to 200 attendees	A webinar, to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailoring of extremist narratives</li> <li>• Right Wing Extremists &amp; Covid-19</li> <li>• Islamist Extremists &amp; Covid-19</li> <li>• Emerging narratives</li> </ul>
5.	Extremist use of online gaming	45 minutes	Webinar, for up to 200 attendees	A webinar, to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online gaming culture and terminology</li> <li>• Right wing extremism in online gaming</li> <li>• Islamist extremism in online gaming</li> </ul>
6.	Incels: online subculture of misogyny	45 minutes	Webinar, for up to 200 attendees	A webinar, to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are Incels?</li> <li>• Associated online culture and misogyny</li> <li>• Incels and extremism</li> </ul>
7.	School massacre ideology	45 minutes	Webinar, for up to 200 attendees	A webinar, to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring school massacre ideology</li> <li>• Emerging themes in Prevent referrals</li> </ul>

To book training please contact Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator, Laura Wright via [laura.wright@kent.gov.uk](mailto:laura.wright@kent.gov.uk)