



Chief Superintendent Nik Adams
National Co-ordinator
Counter Terrorism Policing HQ
New Scotland Yard
London SW1A 2JL
17th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Working together to protect our most vulnerable

As you may be aware, the level of the terrorist threat facing the UK is currently at severe, meaning an attack is considered highly likely. Terrorist recruiters purposefully target and groom the most vulnerable in society to support their cause. Although rare, increased online activity during the pandemic, coupled with feelings of stress and isolation, has been exploited by online groomers of all kinds to spread hateful narratives and target young people directly. In some instances, the social distancing restrictions such as school closures have meant that individuals are isolated from their usual social circles, reducing protective factors that these safe environments provide.

The Prevent programme exists to safeguard and divert individuals from these harms, in a similar way to processes designed to protect people from gangs, drug abuse, and sexual exploitation. Prevent activity is mobilised locally through a whole-of-society approach, involving teachers, healthcare practitioners, social workers, the police, charities, psychologists and religious leaders. It has changed and saved the lives of individuals from all walks of life, supporting them in moving away from radicalisation and violent ideologies.

With the vital role that the CTAN plays in connecting the police with communities, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you details of our upcoming campaign. We have developed a new website, launching Wednesday 18th November 2020, to help families and the public spot the signs when a loved one is being led down a path towards hatred and extremism. The site will be accompanied with a national advice line that will provide direct access to Prevent specialists who are trained to guide people through the process of sharing concerns about a person at risk. The website will be accessible at www.actearly.uk and we will be promoting it on our @TerrorismPolice and my own @NatCoordPrevent Twitter accounts. I would be very grateful if you felt able to share and support that content via your network.

It is communities and partnerships that defeat terrorism. We believe this campaign will provide the public with a greater understanding of how, by working together as a society, we can better protect our most vulnerable individuals. I hope this update has been of interest, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Superintendent Nik Adams
National Coordinator Prevent