Prevent update for schools

Dear Head Teachers

You will be aware that the national terrorism threat level has returned to SEVERE following the decision in May to raise it to CRITICAL, while investigations took place into the Manchester Arena bombing. South Yorkshire Police have confirmed that there is currently no intelligence to suggest any increased risk to local communities and their general message is to be alert, not alarmed.

The Prevent duty guidance for schools has not been updated following the incidents in Manchester and London – but it would be timely to revisit your organisation’s Prevent risk assessment. National Prevent priorities remain focused on Daesh and Al Qa’ida, Extreme Right Wing activity and online radicalisation. There is also an increasing emphasis on working with families who have returned from conflict zones, which could potentially impact on schools across the country.

Locally, these are some of the practical steps that we would recommend considering:

* Ensure physical security arrangements are up to date eg security of buildings, visitor access, evacuation procedures, etc. There is advice and guidance available via the [National Counter Terrorism Security Office](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office). Local responses should of course be proportionate to the risk.
* If you require advice regarding school trips please liaise with your local police contact or speak with Tim Wright in the Council’s ASB & Community Safety Team (0114 2734076 tim.wright@sheffield.gov.uk).
* Make sure there is support in place for any of the school community affected by the recent attacks. The Council’s Educational Psychology Service has recently issued a note to schools highlighting resources available following the Manchester bombing. There is additional support available to anyone directly involved in the incidents (survivors and witnesses) – please contact Tim Wright for details.
* From a Prevent perspective, please remind staff of their key role in safeguarding vulnerable individuals, particularly children and young people, by ensuring they are clear on referral routes and are confident to raise concerns. If you require further support or advice regarding concerns outside your internal safeguarding pathways, please contact Steve Hill (Service Manager in the Safeguarding Children Service 0114 2734934 LADO@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk).
* Be alert and respond to hate incidents in the school community – ensure these are reported appropriately (via the police or third party reporting sites like Tell MAMA). Similarly, if you become aware of emerging tensions in the local community please notify communitysafety@sheffield.gov.uk.

**Ongoing support**

Nationally, the <http://educateagainsthate.com/> website continues to collate resources, advice and good practice relating to Prevent for teachers, parents and school leaders.

Sheffield City Council will be offering schools a range of free Prevent resources (curriculum and staff training) again this year (2017/18). We will be circulating details through Learn Sheffield and via the Safeguarding Leads network and requesting expressions of interest.

The Council will also continue to run Prevent briefing sessions for new school leaders (Heads, DSLs and Governors) on a termly basis – please see communications from Learn Sheffield for booking details.