

# Safeguarding Briefing

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## – PREVENT UPDATE



# Impact of Covid 19 and Prevent

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- Concern over social media and how it has been exploited
- Vulnerable pupils more vulnerable
- Fake Posting – images of minority communities spreading the virus (Coventry and other cities saw a rise of attacks toward minority groups such as the Chinese students at the universities)
- Gradual developing to grooming onto closed chat forums.

# Radicalisation and Extremism

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- The two main threats in terms of radicalisation and extremism are from the Far-Right and ISIS/Daesh inspired extremism.
- Young people can be radicalised in person or online.
- A conversation will begin on mainstream social media and then move to secure communication channels as it progresses.
- Radicalisation is a process of grooming.



# The National Picture



- There are five levels of threat; critical, severe, substantial, moderate and low. The current terror threat to the UK is **SEVERE** – This has escalated in November 2020 from ‘substantial’.
- The recent terrorist attacks in France and November shooting attack in Vienna suggest that the temperature of the threat in Europe is rising.
- There has been an increase in Far Right activity online in recent months.
- ‘National Action’ is a banned Far Right terrorist group. It has been proscribed as a terrorist group since 2016.
- There were four arrests in June 2020 of people who were part of National Action.
- The threat from ISIS or Daesh inspired extremism remains high, alongside threats from the Far Right.

# Prevent – National Security

Threat risk does change. Currently risk is about 50% Daesh and 50% Far-Right

Highest/ Most significant	High and rapid increase	Important but lower risk
Islamist inspired groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Al Qaida</li><li>• Daesh</li><li>• Al Muhajiroun (ALM)</li></ul>	Far Right and Extreme Far Right <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Britain First</li><li>• National Action</li><li>• British Movement</li><li>• Hundred Handers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Groups</li><li>• Northern Ireland related (IRA)</li><li>• India Related</li><li>• Animal Rights</li><li>• Far Left</li></ul>



# Coventry – Links to Daesh

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- 3 Teenagers travelled to Syria 2014
- 2 more attempted to travel in April 2015
- 1 Coventry man convicted in December 2016
- Number of arrests during 2017
- Young woman sentenced for 3 years Feb 2018
- Two Men Charged on terrorism offences 2020



# What Methods do Islamist extremists use?

- **Them Vs Us – Islamist extremists like Daesh and Al-Qaeda claim that the West is at war with Islam**
- **Grooming and exploiting vulnerable People – Especially those with additional vulnerabilities and learning needs.**
- **Manipulation of religious texts to ‘prove/ demonstrate’ their twisted narrative.**
- **Dehumanising others that don’t follow their ideology**
- **Distorting and misrepresenting historical facts**
- **Creating a sense of societal urgency and doom**





# Coventry – Links to Far Right Extremism

Increased in different right wing activity

- EDL event – May 2016
- Stickers – West Midlands infidels (Tile Hill/ City Centre)
- XRW events – Blood and honour subject to local disruption events
- Presence of National Action (Pre-proscription)
- Britain First – May 2019
- Generation identity – September 2019
- British Movement- Stickers January 2020
- Replacement Theory- Stickers- July/ August 2020
- Britain First – Disruption tactics – August 2020 (Royal Court Hotel/ Coventry Hill Hotel)





# Definitions

## **Alt Right-**

A Modern catch-all term

Includes 'Incels', Men's rights activists and different kinds of extreme-right groups e.g. identitarian.

Largely online. younger. highly educated demographic

## **Identitarianism –**

Assert the right to European territory and culture as belonging exclusively to people defined as (white) European

Strong Focus on Identity. European heritage such as ancient greek, Viking or Pagan

Strong Social Media Presence Especially in France, Germany and Italy



## Cultural Nationalism

Is a belief that western culture is under threat from mass immigration into Europe from a lack of integration of certain ethnic and religious groups. That ideology tends to be focused on the rejection of cultural practices such as wearing of the burqa or the perceived rise of the use of sharia law.

In the UK this has been closely associated with anti-Islam activist groups).

**Extreme Groups Examples** – English Defence League (EDL) and Britain First

**Terrorism Example** – Darren Osborne

## White Nationalism

Is the belief that mass immigration from the 'non-white' worlds and demographic change poses an existential threat to the 'white race' and 'western culture'. Advocates for some sort of 'White Homeland' either through partition of already existing countries' or by the (if necessary forced) repatriation of ethnic minorities.

Much of this rhetoric is present in the Identitarian movement.

**Extremist groups examples -**  
Generation Identity and Hundred Handers

**Terrorism example** - Brenton Tarrant

## White Supremacism

Is the belief that the 'White Race' has certain undeniable physical and mental characteristics that makes it superior (with some variation) to other 'races'. Often associated with conspiracy theories that explain the decline in 'White' political and social status over the last 100 years.

This can often encapsulate a belief in the spiritual superiority of the 'white race', often describing racial differences in quasi religious forms (such as the Aryan soul)

In the UK these views are often associated with occult philosophies such as (Esoteric Hitlerism)

**Extremist groups examples -**  
National Action/ Blood and Honour/ British movement/ Racial volunteer force

**Terrorism example** – Anders Breivik/ Pavlo Lapshyn/ Sonnenkreig Division/ National Action





# Far Right and Young people



**Far Right** – Use coded ironic memes and symbols unfamiliar to most adults

- Students flashing the 'OK' Sign in class? Possibly a new symbol has been co-opted by online white supremacists
- The finger-and-thumb gesture - which is also a popular emoji - is being used by some as a "sincere expression of white supremacy", according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
- Some young people are using Popular Youtuber PewDiePie's image as a background on their computer- he has been accused of Anti-Semitism and racism.
- White Nationalist groups cultivate a preppy/ posh aesthetic to blend into the mainstream
- Female influencers of the far right are easy to 'follow' such as Lauren Southern, Katie Hopkins and Faith Goldy



## Behavioural Signs

Emotional	Verbal	Physical
Short tempered	Fixation on Subject	Tattoos
New found arrogance	Change in language	Internet sites
Withdrawn	Scripted narratives	Social Media
Sullen	Closed discussions	Change in routine
Quick tempered	Declarations of intent	Change in Friendships
Mood swings	Divertive language used	Change in appearance.
Stressed	Racism	
Preoccupied	Inappropriate questions	
Conflicted	Against shared views	

# What to look out for

## Behavioural Signs

- Becoming increasingly argumentative
- Refusing to listen to different points of view
- Unwilling to engage with children who are different
- Becoming abusive to children who are different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance
- Distancing themselves from old friends
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups
- Unusual online behaviour

## The Internet Age

1. Increased use of internet by extremist groups is allowing more and more people to be reached
2. Social media – in direct contact with extremists all around the world
3. Access to graphic images as well as extremist rhetoric
4. All forms of Extremists are using the internet to Reach, Radicalise and Spread their Hate.



# The Times 05.10.20 reports

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Children as young as 12 are being recruited by the far-right via Youtube livestreams. Counterterrorism experts say that an increasing number of 'extremely young' British teenagers are being lured towards far-right groups that are targeting them online.

These groups are deploying tactics such as live streams/ interviews with teenagers among the far-right, as well as exploiting gaming platforms aimed at this 'Generation Z'



## Patriotic Alternative is a fascist, anti-Semitic, white nationalist organisation

Launched in Britain in September 2019. Its' founder Mark Collett, formerly director of publicity for the British Nationalist Party and one of the UK's most notorious fascist figures

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The group's Private social media are awash with extreme racism, Holocaust denial and open admiration of fascism.

While small and too extreme to ever achieve mainstream success, they have quickly become one of the most important fascist organisations currently active in the UK

They have attracted activists previously involved in more 'moderate' far right movements such as previous supporters of Tommy Robinson

In a short space of time they have managed to begin to unite elements of the notoriously splintered and fractured UK Facisist Scene, and even attracted former activist of the Neo-Nazi group National Action, Which has since been proscribed under anti-Terrorism Legislation

They have managed to attract a number of Far-right social media influencers from the Post-Organisational online far-right to become active in a more traditional organisation.



**#White Lives Matter**



<https://www.patriotalternative.org.uk/>

Countdown to Native Brits becoming a minority!