



April 2024

Bury Prevent Newsletter

Welcome to April's newsletter providing information and guidance in relation to Prevent in Bury.

The focus on Prevent is to safeguard against hateful extremism.

Prevent is one part of the government's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

The aim of Prevent is to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
- enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and support behaviour change.

Hello from Roy Thickett and Bury Council

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter! We're excited to share with you some exciting updates and news from Bury.

Hope everyone is well and looking forward to warmer, longer light filled days, flowers blooming and plenty of Easter Eggs!

"I glanced out the window at the signs of spring. The sky was almost blue, the trees were almost budding, the sun was almost bright."

Millard Kaufman

In April's newsletter we are going to look at Incels, short for 'involuntary celibates' who are individuals who are unable to develop intimate relationships despite desiring one.

Did you know ?

Incels were typically in their mid-twenties, heterosexual and childless. Though the majority of the exclusively US and UK sample were white, it was ethnically diverse, with 42% self-identifying as a person of colour. Most participants considered themselves from a middle class or lower middle class background. Most had some form of post-secondary school education and were either living at home or renting.

You can contact Roy by email to prevent@bury.gov.uk or call 07581020228

Or for further information go to:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/privacy/service-privacy-notices/prevent-and-channel-panel-privacy-notice>



Bury Prevent Newsletter

Incels

Incels are a primarily online sub-culture community of men who forge a sense of identity around their perceived inability to form sexual or romantic relationships. The incel community operates almost exclusively online, providing an outlet for expressing misogynistic hostility, frustration and blame toward society for a perceived failure to include them.

In recent years, the online community of involuntary celibates (incels) has risen to the top of the news and security policy agenda. This is largely due to several high-profile terrorist attacks,

The incel community has become an echo chamber for individuals, mostly men, to blame their problems on women, promote hateful ideology, and even to encourage violence and terrorism.

In 2021, Jake Davison shot and killed five people and himself in Plymouth. Prior to the attack, Davison expressed misogynistic views in online incel forums.

Less than a year earlier, Gabrielle Friel, 22, was sentenced under the Terrorism Act in Edinburgh. Friel, who “expressed affinity with” incel mass murderer Elliot Rodger, was found guilty of

possessing a crossbow and machete, with suspected intent to carry out a spree killing.

In light of these events, incel activity and extremist ideology in the UK has increased.

A ground-breaking study has discovered the complex relationship between mental health, a shared worldview and the social networking of involuntary celibate (incel) communities.

The Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE) commissioned the Swansea University Research on the Incel Community (SURIC) to produce this report. This is the largest global study of incels to date.

On 12 August 2021, a mass shooting occurred in Keyham, Plymouth, England.

The gunman, 22-year-old Jake Davison from Plymouth, shot and killed five people (including his mother) and injured two others before fatally shooting himself.



Bury Prevent Newsletter

Predicting harm amongst Incels and roles of mental health and ideologies

The following report published in February 2024 from the Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE) of the UK government: This study was conducted with the co-operation of members of the incel community. The mission statement included resolution(s) to base psychological findings around direct engagement with the incel community as individuals, to investigate incel beliefs and behaviour without sensationalising or demonising them, and to not judge all incels by the actions, behaviours, or views of the most extreme minority.

Key findings:

- The answer to the incel phenomenon is more closely aligned to mental health support than counter terrorism interventions.
- Mental Health: Incels typically display extremely poor mental health, with high incidences of depression and suicidal thoughts (one in three incels contemplated suicide every day for the past two weeks). They are also more likely to be neurodivergent, with a higher likelihood of diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder.
- Attitudes and Beliefs: Participants perceived high levels of victimhood, anger, and misogyny. They acknowledged a shared worldview among incels which includes identifying feminists as a primary enemy. They also identified the political (far) left, wider society and women as enemies.
- Approval of violence: There exists a small cohort (5%) who 'endorse the use of violence to defend their community. When asked if they justify violence against people that incels perceive as causing harm to them, 5% of respondents said 'Often'. Around 20% said "Sometimes".
- Political beliefs: Many commentators have suggested a link between incels and the far right. However, this survey found that incels were politically centre-left on average. The exception was the 5% who agreed that violence against individuals that cause incels harm is often justified; these individuals were politically centre-right.
- Predicting harm: Mental Health and adoption of incel Ideology were significantly more likely to predict the development of harmful views than Social Networking (time spent on social network sites, amount of interaction with others, content generation, and exposure to radical people and content).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/predicting-harm-among-incels-involuntary-celibates>



Bury Prevent Newsletter

New Definition of Extremism (2024)

Extremism can lead to individuals becoming radicalised and even erode democracy.

The new definition of extremism updates the one set out in the 2011 Prevent duty in response to new threats following activity in the Middle East.

The new definition has been released alongside engagement principles used by government departments to avoid funding or giving a platform to groups with extremist ideologies.

The new definition is narrower, giving specificity while protecting freedom of expression:

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

Lawful exercise of rights is not extremism, neither is holding a belief.

Freedom of expression is still protected, with 'intolerance', for example, being linked to 'violence' rather than a strong opposition and dislike.



Bury Prevent Newsletter

National Picture

Threat level

The threat to the UK from terrorism is currently substantial. This indicates that an attack is likely.

It is the middle of the 5 levels of threat which terrorism is assessed against, with the level set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre and the Security Service.

New Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities

Under section 29 of the counter terrorism and security act of 2015, Local Authorities are required to have due regard to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.

A [new toolkit](#) supports the delivery of Prevent by LAs, providing examples of good and best practice. It does not supersede statutory guidance but does highlight benchmarks for typical expectations of local authorities delivering Prevent. It can be found here:

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182802/Prevent_duty_guidance_toolkit_for_local_authorities.pdf)

A new section has been added to the Prevent guidance on using the National Referral Form and the 'Notice, Check, Share' process. Professionals may wish to adopt this process if they have concerns about radicalisation.

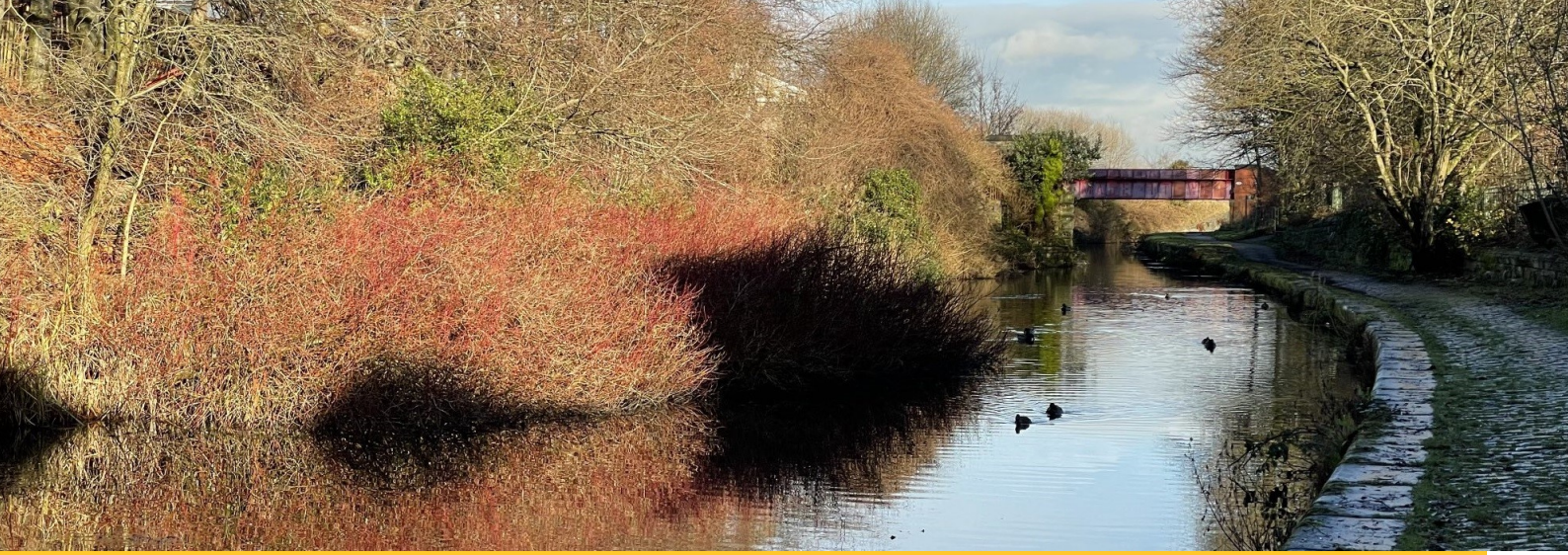
Notice - any concerning behaviour, including signs of radicalisation as included in the guidance

Check - the organisational response and speak to the safeguarding lead of your concerns. This means that you will have all the relevant information before sharing.

Share - the concern and make a referral to the police using the national referral form.

Implications for Bury:

Bury Council should review all of the above recommendations and consider implementation of those which are not already in place. Contact prevent@bury.gov.uk for more in-depth of information on any of the recommendations, including best practice.



Bury Prevent Newsletter

Guidance: get help for radicalisation

Since 2017, there has been 14 terror attacks in the UK.

The government's CONTEST policy paper sets out a strategy to not only stop attacks, but also to prevent radicalisation and extremism happening in the first place.

The government's main priority is to make use of the full potential of their Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre (CTOC) to bring together the right teams and technology to disrupt and prevent terrorists, also bringing in expertise from other, non-law enforcement sectors such as education and social services, as well as international partners and allies.

The strategy is divided into 4 sections covering the areas of our world-leading counter-terrorism programme. These are:

Prevent – to stop people from becoming terrorists to supporting terrorism.

Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks in this country or UK interests overseas.

Protect – to strengthen our position against a terrorist attack.

Prepare – to minimise the impact of an attack and reduce the likelihood of further attacks.

There are also efforts that go beyond CONTEST to make transformational improvements to response.

For example, the government supports the public and private sector to become partners in prevention by increasing public messaging to ensure that they are informed about the routes to report, keeping safe, and responding to incidents.

They will strengthen our border lines against terrorism and invest in relationships with the technology sector to explore opportunities and threats arising from technology, suppressing criminal exploitation of the internet.

Addressing common myths about Prevent

Once you are referred into Prevent everyone is treated in the same way whether they need it or not. It can do more harm than good.

There are a wide range of professionals who can be involved in the Prevent process. The people that are included will depend upon the individuals' needs. It is a needs led service that will bring the relevant people together to maximise the support that can be given. In this way any provision that is offered is done so with that one person in mind.



Bury Prevent Newsletter

Upcoming training

Prevent duty training:

[Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training \(www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk\)](http://www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk)

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) Training

This training is to raise awareness of PREVENT and CHANNEL as a strategy to reduce the number of people becoming or supporting violent extremism through recognising, supporting, and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation through multi-agency support.

This session is open to all and includes:

- How young people and adults are radicalised.
- The signs of radicalisation.
- Local and national tensions
- How Prevent supports safeguarding vulnerable individuals against extremism and radicalisation
- What to do if you think a person is being radicalised.

Upcoming Online WRAP sessions are:

- 18 July - 6-7pm
- 17 October - 6-7pm

Face to face workshops are encouraged by The Home Office and these can be booked to suit via the address below.

To book a place, please contact prevent@bury.gov.uk



Bury Prevent Newsletter

Upcoming webinars by SAFE (Safety Advice for Everybody) through the Community Security Trust

For more information and to book onto sessions: [SAFE Events Hub \(zoom.us\)](https://www.safeevents.com/)

- 25 April 2pm, Hate Crime (the complexity of hate crime)
- 2 May 12pm, Organising Security (security & risk management)
- 8 May 6pm, Countering Radicalisation and Changing Mindsets (How are people's minds changed towards radicalisation?)
- 15 May 6pm, Women's safety (useful tips to keep you safe)
- 23 May 2pm, Online Security (protecting yourself and your community from online threats)
- 29 May 6pm, Exploring the Far Right (the state of the far right in the UK)



Some useful links and documents can be found by scanning our Linktree.

Scan this QR code to find out more

Bury
Council

You can contact Roy by email to prevent@bury.gov.uk or call 07581020228

Or for further information go to:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/privacy/service-privacy-notices/prevent-and-channel-panel-privacy-notice>



Bury Prevent Newsletter

GMP Triage for referrals to Channel

For a pre discussion and information and guidance around the suitability of submitting a referral for Channel you can contact CTPNW (Counter Terrorism Policing Northwest). (CTPNW) is a five-force collaboration delivering Counter Terrorism (CT) services to our regional forces as well as forming part of the national CT Network.

Staff at CTPNW can advise and support on whether the referral will be appropriate.

Tel: 0161 856 6362 Email: channel.project@gmp.police.uk

For further information please visit www.bury.gov.uk/prevent or email prevent@bury.gov.uk

Useful Resources

- www.protectuk.police.uk/ - counter terrorism support & guidance to effectively protect & prepare.
- Prevent and Channel factsheet - 2023 - Home Office in the media (blog.gov.uk) – Overview of the Prevent agenda and Channel process <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/08/prevent-and-channel-factsheet-2023/>
- What are the signs of radicalisation? ACT Early - find out more about the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation. <https://actearly.uk/spot-the-signs-of-radicalisation/what-to-look-for/>
- Protecting charities from abuse for extremist purposes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – guide on how trustees, staff and volunteers can protect their charity from abuse by those encouraging extremism. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-charities-from-abuse-for-extremist-purposes>
- Radicalisation and child protection NSPCC Learning – online resource from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/radicalisation>
- Education colleagues – your Designated Safeguarding Leads have received a Prevent Education Handbook

For further information please visit www.bury.gov.uk/prevent or email prevent@bury.gov.uk