Message from the Regional Prevent Coordinator for the East Midlands

Well where did the summer go? Here we are in October and the dark nights are closing in already. The summer seems to be a distant memory almost.

As you will know we have had a busy summer with several events and areas of activity taking place across the whole of the East Midlands.

We have had the Youth Conference in May and Prevent Awareness Week at the start of September, both of which has received excellent media coverage. In addition to that some great work has been done through two Continuous Improvement Groups which looked at our online footprint and how we get Prevent Intelligence onto the SB secure network. These CIG’s have helped push us forward and now each Prevent Team has its own Twitter account. We have nearly finalised an East Midlands Regional Prevent website and we have developed an intelligence process that bridges the gap around sharing what we know with our SB Colleagues in Pursue.

As well as all this Prevent is dealing with more referrals and we are helping our partners as they navigate through the murky waters of the Counter Terrorism Security Bill.

We held our second regional staff briefing day on the 19th October and during that event we had some interesting presentations such as prisons, safeguarding and CHIS. It is my intention to hold two of these a year and I would welcome your views regarding the content for the next one which will be around April 2016 as I want these days to be your day with content on what you feel is relevant and important to your role.

The next main item to deal with is the Counter Terrorism Local Profile! I have recently sent up an East Midlands Strategic Partnership board in order to get all our key partners together so that the new CTLP due out early next year is a well informed and useful multiagency document. Our Analyst at the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit Headquarters has created a list of 13 questions for our Partners in order to stimulate an appropriate response that can be used within the next CTLP. Our friends in the Service are also keen to help make the CTLP a valuable document that is able to give some clarity around the risks both nationally and regionally so that our partners are able to direct resources accordingly.

So lots done and lots to do. There is a swap occurring between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (not quite like Swap shop for those old enough to remember!) Inspector Andy Townsend is swapping posts with Inspector Karl Mortimer so that both can have a look at Prevent delivery in another County and take some learning from that. That is planned to be for three months, ending just after Christmas so my thanks to both for making that happen.

Stay safe!

Sean

As DCI Dawson referred to we have been really busy with ensuring we get Social Media up and running.

We’re also finishing off our East Midlands Regional Prevent Website which will be launched soon. The Regional Prevent Facebook page will be having a facelift soon to reflect the Regional Website.

Here is a sneak preview of how it is shaping up...
We have been doing an enormous amount of work in the East Midlands with our Young People.

We are always engaging with young people in our communities but a couple of national campaigns have driven a Youth Consultation Panel and also encouraged the East Midlands to promote a national survey aimed at 11 to 25 year olds called the Youth Online Understanding Radicalisation survey.

A Panel of more than 20 people from all around the East Midlands region and from our different communities sat to discuss the topics which most effect our young people today and how we can better communicate the risks and dangers to our young people around extremism and radicalisation. The panel also comprised of people working in Prevent.

More and more young people are travelling overseas to fight in support of the Islamic State and more young people are getting involved in violent extremism, 1 in 6 arrested for terrorism offences are below the age of 20, so we need to make sure we get our message across.

We were lucky enough to have a presentation by Jaz Clacey and Lilly Missen from the Leicester charity StreetVibe. They showcased a product they had developed to help get the message across about the damaging effects of drug use and the panel looked at how this could be adapted to fit our needs in response to messaging around radicalisation.

We asked the young panel members for their thoughts on how we can all work collectively to help shape the policies that dictate how we engage with and influence their generation.

The consultation panel was filmed by a local news team and appeared as part of a news item about the work we are doing in the East Midlands.

We are holding another panel meeting in December 2015.

**East Midlands takes the initiative with Prevent Single Point of Contact Officers and Prevent Training**

Leicestershire Prevent Team initially run with an idea around utilising the excellent skills of our neighbourhood policing officers to assist Prevent teams in engaging with our communities, spotting the signs of extremism and radicalisation and responding and referring our more vulnerable individuals to get appropriate support. Our S.P.O.C’s in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire have attended a one day initial training course backed up by secondment to the Prevent Teams in their force area.

We have also held the first Prevent Officer Training Course with our Team members who are relatively new in post. This two day course was based on a national model and included training by our Counter Terrorism Training Unit and skilled Prevent staff. Alongside this two of our Channel interventionists talked about their journey and how they support individuals who engage in the Channel process.
Prevent Awareness Week

We had a really busy week with our regional Prevent Teams delivering and facilitating at some major events around our region and taking the lead with some pioneering engagement initiatives!

Thanks to Lincolnshire Prevent Team and their Force’s Media Unit we have had our week long activity filmed which is available to view on YOU TUBE.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sEx88S30gI

A quick round up of some of the activity that week:

Leicester Prevent Team visited King Street Mosque in Charnwood and PC Pete Bumpus gave a presentation on Prevent to the audience of over 30 young people.

We also presented at the Deaf Muslim Community meeting in St Matthews, Leicester with the help of ActionDeafness and our own PLOD officer Sergeant Emma Gilbert.

Inspector and Prevent Manager Bill Knopp, along with our Lead in Prevent for the Local Authority, engaged with 40 Imams to discuss issues around Prevent and the new Counter Terrorism and Security Act.

Derby Prevent Team facilitated at a group meeting run by ladies in the local Muslim community where they came together to discuss women’s roles around Prevent amongst other important issues. Local Authority Prevent lead Dawn Robinson gave a talk along with other guest speakers. Two ladies instrumental in the event, Tazim Fayaz and Shahida Shabnam, have set up a course to help mums spot the “signs of extremism”. This worthwhile project was initially funded by Derbyshire Police. There has been much interest in this project both regionally and nationally.

Safeguarding Multi Agency Approach Reduces Terrorism.

This film, produced by Derby Prevent Team and our partners, is aimed at 13-16 year olds to highlight the dangers of radicalisation and was launched in Derby on the 10th September at St Benedict’s School. The BBC were present along with East Midlands today to film the launch. There will soon be a subtitled version of this East Midlands product. It is also available with lesson plans on the Google Cloud repository. Contact your local Prevent Teams for more information.

Northamptonshire’s main focus was online messaging and engagement and they tweeted and engaged with a large spectrum of people about Prevent and Counter Terrorism and about the dangers of travelling to Syria and Iraq. One of the more exciting initiatives this week was the streaming of a Prevent presentation live on Twitter using the Periscope App. This was viewed by over 300 people.

Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire were also really busy in Prevent Awareness Week with engagement out in the community and at schools and mosques. We also gave a couple of radio interviews namely to cover the Asian hour as well as the normal drive time slot.
ROUND UP

In the News...
The Prevent Statutory Duty for Higher Education and Further Education has been recently passed by Parliament and commenced on Friday 18th September 2015.

Follow the hyperlink for further information:

A major drive is to be launched against infiltration of the public sector, charities and businesses by Islamist and other extremists as a key part of the government’s new counter-extremist strategy which was highlighted in the Prime Ministers speech at the beginning of October. The drive will start with a full review of all public Institutions including schools, colleges, the civil service and local authorities.

On the agenda ...

- On the 19th October we had the Staff Briefing Day for Prevent officers from our region. We are looking at holding these twice yearly. On the agenda will be updates from our Regional Prevent Coordinator and representatives from the National Counter Terrorism Headquarters.
- The 28th October will see another Youth event for the National Citizenship Service over in Lincoln where we will be presenting to around 200 young people. This fits in with our Youth Consultation work.
- On the 20th November the Public Protection Unit from Derbyshire will be giving an input to Prevent Officers around their units role in safeguarding vulnerable individuals in our communities.
- We are planning to hold presentations in the East Midlands’ region from a renowned scholar from the Deobandi school of thought. Watch this space!
- Our next Youth Consultation Panel takes place in December 2015 and in March of next year we are looking to celebrate International Women’s’ Day with events around the region in a roadshow style.

We want to say a big HELLO to our new East Midlands Community Contact Unit Coordinator Gary Parkin. Gary was previously a Superintendent at Derbyshire Constabulary before retiring and taking on the pivotal role in Channel. Welcome Gary, we all look forward to working with you.

Remember to search for the East Midlands Prevent Regional Facebook page and Prevent teams to keep posting your newsworthy items.

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Twitter accounts are gaining more and more followers and the well established Northamptonshire account is being hailed as one of the national success stories in respect of a Prevent social media platform.

And finally ... please submit your new stories and images for our regional newsletter to me at kay.mortimer.6527@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk or contact me on: 07710920051