

# Counter Terrorism Local Profile 2023



Is someone else speaking through someone you know?

If you're worried that someone you know is being radicalised, visit [actearly.uk](https://actearly.uk)

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*“Prevention of terrorism is everyone’s business, help us identify those vulnerable or who exhibit concerning behaviour”*



Is a good friend coming under a bad influence?

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**COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING**

This official Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) provides an outline of the key threats, risks and vulnerabilities within London between **April 2021** and **September 2022**.

The CTLP is not designed to provide a complete assessment of extremist concerns but seeks to raise awareness of current issues, providing information from which to determine priorities and support local Prevent delivery plans and awareness raising across a wide range of partners and communities in London.



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## KEY MESSAGES

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL**, meaning **an attack is likely**. The tragic death of serving MP, Sir David AMES, the Liverpool Women's Hospital Attack and the Dover Immigration Centre attack - remind us that attacks can occur at any time or place and without warning.

**Islamist Extremism** continues to be the predominant threat and risk in London. The greatest risk emanates from self-initiated radicalisation online as it provides a multitude of different inspirational pathways, therefore Islamist extremism will continue to be a threat. Material linked to Islamist Extremist individuals and groups like Daesh and Al-Qaeda, continues to be shared and is easily accessible by anyone interested in, or vulnerable to extremism.

The threat and risk from **Extreme Right Wing Terrorism (ERWT)** has not significantly increased in the last 12 months. International and contentious community issues, and civil rights movements draw ERW groups where they then hijack the narrative. Vast amounts of ERW activity takes place online, specifically on messaging apps like Telegram. The ease in which extremist material can reach vulnerable individuals remains a cause for concern. A significant amount of ERW activity takes place online, however little matures into real-world activity or attack plots.

The step-change in terrorist activity is matched only by an **increased effort from police and security services working to stop attacks**, bringing offenders to justice, protect crowded places, mitigate against attacks and stop people being drawn into terrorism. Through the Prevent programme we have **safeguarded hundreds of vulnerable people** being preyed on by radicalisers, in person or online, by putting **community and partner engagement** at the heart of our work.



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Self-Initiated Terrorism (S-IT) is now the term for what was formerly known as 'Potential Lone Actors'. The terrorist threat to the UK primarily emanates from S-IT who are unpredictable and difficult to detect.

## Islamist threat

Islamist extremism is the most likely ideological inspiration for aspirational Self Initiated Terrorist (S-IT) attackers. The adoption of an Islamist Extremist ideology is becoming more diverse. As such, the threat and risk stems from self-initiated radicalisation based off of individualistic grievance narratives. These are unique to an individual, but narratives often focus on the persecution of Muslims globally. Grievances are exploited by radical or extremist groups and individuals, in addition to terrorist groups like Daesh (ISIL, ISIS & IS) and Al-Qaeda. Examples in this period have included the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Propaganda does encourage attacks in the West, and does provide instructional material and advice. However, the motivation and intent to act is based off of an individual's grievance, and their own drive and/or agenda.

Low-sophistication methodologies, particularly bladed and blunt-force weapons, remain the **most likely** methodology to be used in a terrorist attack in the UK. Individuals with violent and extremist intent, who may have declared affiliation to known Islamist Extremist groups, are almost certain to be individual actors in their own right.

## Extreme Right Wing Threat

Self-initiated terrorist (SIT) attacks also continue to pose the greatest threat within the extreme right-wing terrorism (ERWT) thematic. Individuals are often young, educated and heavily engaged online. Allegiance to groups can be fluid and inspiration may be taken from multiple sources across the ERW ideological spectrum. Groups existing primarily, but not exclusively, online continue to disseminate terrorist material, including content intended to inflame community tensions and encourage attacks.

While groups are not actively directing attacks, they will continue to disseminate material within online ERWT channels. It is a possibility that such groups wish to radicalise its members in the hope of inspiring an individual to commit an attack. Low-sophistication methodologies, particularly bladed and blunt-force weapons, remain the most likely methodology to be used in a terrorist attack in the UK. Ideological discussion within online groups reflect the concept of "Leaderless Resistance" and SIEGE.



**Timeline of S-IT Incidents and Late Stage Disrupted Plots in the UK between 2020- 2022 (Attacks in London in BOLD) -**

*\*This is not an exhaustive list*

PERPETRATOR		IDEOLOGY & SUCCESS		DETAIL
Feb 20	<b>Sudesh AMMAN</b>	Islamist	Attack	Conducted a knife attack in Streatham High Street, London where he stabbed 2 victims. AMMAN had stolen a knife from a local shop before the incident and wore a fake suicide vest, similar to the one used in the 2019 Fishmongers Hall attack
Jun 20	Khairi SAADALLAH	Islamist	Attack	Conducted a knife attack in Forbury Gardens, Reading, fatally stabbing 3 and seriously injuring 3. Saadallah was released from prison only 17 days before the attack after a sentence for possessing a bladed article and assault.
Jul 20	<b>Sahayb Abu Aweys</b>	Islamist	Disrupted Plot	IS supporter Sahayb Abu bought an 18-inch sword, a knife, balaclavas and body armour online in preparation of committing a terror attack. Sahayb is one of several extremist siblings from the same London family, and was previously convicted of a commercial burglary 2018. He served his sentence alongside inmates convicted of terrorism offences. Abu was released from prison in March 2019, less than four months before his arrest.
Sep 20	<b>Caven Medlock</b>	ERWT	Failed Attack	Arrived at Duncan Lewis law firm in Harrow, armed with a knife and handcuffs while carrying Confederate and Nazi flags. Threatened to kill solicitor Toufique Hossain - while verbally abusing two other members of staff on the basis of their race and religion.
Oct 19	<b>Safiyya Shaikh</b>	Islamist	Disrupted Plot	Planned an IED terror attack for Easter 2020 that involved various targets, including a London Hotel, St Paul’s Cathedral, and a suicide bomb attack in the London Underground. SHAIKH was referred to Prevent 3 times, but ceased participating each time. She was heavily involved with social media and Telegram, where she encouraged attacks in the UK and abroad, and disseminated ISIL propaganda.
Sep 19	Paul Duleavy	ERWT	Disrupted Plot	Joined neo-Nazi group Feuerkrieg Division (FKD) and sought to convert a blank firing weapon into a viable firearm. He possessed a number terror manuals on firearms, explosives and military tactics, right wing material including videos of the New Zealand terror attack in 2019, and numerous online chat conversations.
Dec.20	Matthew Cronjager	ERWT	Disrupted Plot	Neo-Nazi who tried to get hold of a 3D printed gun or a sawn-off shotgun to kill his target, who was an Asian friend who boasted that he slept with "white chicks“. He shared material with like-minded people he had met online in a Telegram group called The British Hand.
May 21	Daniel Wright	ERWT	Disrupted Plot	Wright was part of a cell that "celebrated racist violence and killing" through online messages, namely Telegram. Wright was involved in the exchange terror manuals, and had an active interest in the manufacture of explosives and weaponry. Wright was found guilty of TACT offences and also possessing and manufacturing a firearm. While the group had no clear target at the time of their arrest, they pushed relentlessly for violent action in pursuit of their objectives
Sep 21	Oliver Lewin	ERWT	Disrupted Plot	Lewin is alleged to have carried out reconnaissance of proposed targets, planned attacks on important infrastructure sites, and sought others to help him. He was a member of a chat group on Telegram, where he expressed an intention to "topple the government".
Oct 21	Luke Skelton	ERWT	Disrupted Plot	Believed he was part of a race war against “totalitarian” liberal democracy, and conducted internet hostile reconnaissance into three police stations in Newcastle, physically going to one where he took photographs. Skelton glorified Hitler and approved of the attack by the Brenton Tarrant. He drafted a manifesto – expressing intent to accelerate a racial war. Internet searches Skelton is alleged to have made included how to make dynamite and napalm.
Oct 21	<b>Ali Harbi Ali</b>	Islamist	Attack	Conducted a knife attack against Sir David Amess at his constituency surgery in Essex. Ali, from north London, and was motivated by a desire to seek revenge against MPs who had voted for airstrikes on Syria.
Nov 21	<b>Emad Al Swealmeen</b>	U/K	Attack	Emad Al Swealmeen was killed outside Liverpool Women's Hospital on Remembrance Sunday when his homemade bomb went off.
Dec 21	<b>Mathew King</b>	Islamist	Disrupted Plot	Matthew King was accused of carrying out surveillance at police stations, railway stations and an British Army barracks in London in preparation for an act against either serving on-duty police officers or military personnel.
Sept 22	<b>Edward Little</b>	Islamist	Disrupted Plot	Edward Little, 21, allegedly planned to buy a firearm and kill a Christian preacher and others gathered at Speakers' Corner.
Oct 22	<b>Andrew Leak</b>	ERWT	Attack	Andrew Leak threw crude incendiary devices outside the Immigration Centre in Dover.

## Mixed, Unclear, Unstable, Conflicted ideologies & Mental Health, Learning Difficulties & Spectrum Disorders

Mixed, Unclear, Unstable, Conflicted (MUUC) continue to make up a significant proportion of Prevent referrals, however very few present a genuine CT threat or risk. The main risk gravitates around the vulnerability traits these individuals display. It is **likely** that individuals in various states of crisis are reaching for fragments of any ideology which can enable them to focus, or rationalise their feelings.

Rather than being directly influenced or led to extremist ideologies by recruiters and radicalisers, engagement with this content can be more self-directed based on a person's specific fixation or grievance. Increased availability of online content gives individuals access to an abundance of violent and/or radicalising material.

Mental ill health and neurodivergence remains a common factor within Prevent referrals. This is prevalent across all types of extremism. It is **almost certain** that individuals experiencing mental ill health and neurodivergence have other vulnerabilities. It is **highly likely** that overlapping issues contributing to vulnerability raise the level of risk to radicalisation. However, it is **unlikely** that the presence of mental ill health and neurodivergence is a standalone cause for radicalisation.

It is **likely** that the ongoing psychological and social impacts of the Covid19 pandemic has increased vulnerability within individuals.

### Incel Culture

Incel is not the name of an extremist or terrorist group. Incel refers to various online communities that converge around the feeling that the world is fundamentally unfair, and that sexual success is impossible for them. Those who adopt the term 'Incel' claim to perceive themselves as "powerless", "victimised" and "conspired against", and they draw a strong distinction between the in-group and out-group.

Incels are not an inherently violent faction, however there is a growing trend of more violent material being shared on online forums. However, there has been little evidence to suggest that Incel ideology is widespread, or significantly increasing within London.



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## Online threat

Self-radicalisation online is a continuing threat. The wide reaching and readily accessible nature of online material continues to make the online space a viable location for radicalisation to occur. Drivers influencing these behaviours are **likely** to be global events, social media trends and personal life changes. All of which can form a grievance narrative that can be exploited by extremists.

Online pathways to extremism removes geographical constraints, and means extremist messaging resonates on a global scale. The volume of material that can be uploaded and stored provides a perfect sharing platform that will be utilised by extremists for the foreseeable future.

Messaging apps and chats provide a degree of anonymity that almost certainly emboldens individuals to share extremist material and ideas online. Moreover, mainstream social media sites provide radicalisers an accessible platform to share concerning narratives to vulnerable audiences in 'easy to digest' formats. The use of such apps, chat sites, and online media platforms is more appealing to younger people. As a result, it is likely that individuals are becoming involved in concerning, and potentially extremist, behaviours from a younger age.

Algorithms on social media apps are likely to encourage the sharing of harmful content, hateful narratives, disinformation, conspiracy theories and extremist propaganda. As such, online apps can act as an amplifier rather than a source, and can be used as a tool to reiterate existing narratives, rather than develop new ones. This has the potential to increase radicalisation risks to passive, or more susceptible, viewers.



### Online Harms Bill\*

The bill has not been put into effect yet, therefore it is difficult to make an assessment of how it will impact the online space.

The recent change to the bill has removed the clause that compels social media companies to control the content on their sites. The impact of this is the continued permissibility of the risks to those vulnerable to radicalisation. Additionally, due to a lack of restriction, this is **likely** to cause identification challenges, making it difficult to identify and predict patterns of movement across platforms.

### **EMERGING: Misogynistic Narratives amongst Online Influencers**

Misogynistic narratives do have the propensity to encourage harms, and can be viewed as an example of an exploitable gateway narrative to something more concerning and potentially harmful.

Recently, there has been an increase in violent misogynistic narratives online, and there has been a development of newer male supremacist movements, which have misogyny at the heart of their belief systems. Whilst such individuals motivations are highly controversial and harmful, they are not necessarily fuelled by an extremist or terrorist intent.

An adherence to misogynistic ideas or misogynistic behaviours in isolation, although concerning, is not something that automatically warrants a referral to Prevent. A referral to Prevent may be appropriate if there are broader indications that radicalisation is occurring, or an individual could be drawn into supporting terrorist groups or activities.



\* The Online Harms Bill could change again, therefore this assessment is subject to change

## The terrorism threat in London is real.

Are you and your organisation equipped and working to Prevent it? Ask yourself the following questions

1. What challenges do you have in your organisation or area linked to Terrorism?
2. Do you have Vulnerable to being radicalised embedded within your safeguarding structures?
3. Do you know how to make a Prevent referral?
4. As a citizen of London or the UK, do you know the signs to spot if someone is being radicalised?
5. We are seeing a concerning rise in young people being radicalised online. Do you have measures in place to Prevent or spot this?
6. Do you know how to be safe online?
7. We want you to feel confident to refer someone if you are worried they are being radicalised. Are you confident? Don't leave it until it's too late. Act Early.

For more advice or support, visit [www.ActEarly.UK](http://www.ActEarly.UK) or look up some of the helpful guides on the resources page coming up next.



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# Links and Resources

Links and Resources	
<a href="https://www.ltai.info/">https://www.ltai.info/</a>	Lets Talk About It (LTAI) Prevent website, includes video interviews with previous Prevent subjects and education information on spotting the signs of radicalisation.
<a href="http://www.actearly.uk">www.actearly.uk</a>	Act Early campaign website that includes advice on how to spot the signs of radicalisation, tips for holding conversations and details of how to report concerns.
<a href="https://www.ltai.info/staying-safe-online/">https://www.ltai.info/staying-safe-online/</a>	Advice for parents, guardians and carers during lockdown
<a href="https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/">https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/</a>	CT Citizen online training
<a href="https://educateagainsthate.com/">https://educateagainsthate.com/</a>	Government advice and trusted resources for schools to safeguard students from radicalisation, build resilience to all types of extremism and promote shared values.
<a href="https://www.getsafeonline.org/social-networking/online-radicalisation/">https://www.getsafeonline.org/social-networking/online-radicalisation/</a>	Free, impartial information and advice for the public and small businesses on keeping safe and secure online. Contains specific sections on on-line radicalisation.
<a href="https://mps.ent.box.com/s/xn8ga3ti0vgi4fjqf9fmsoti76e2jgv4">https://mps.ent.box.com/s/xn8ga3ti0vgi4fjqf9fmsoti76e2jgv4</a>	<b>Think Safeguarding, Think Prevent:</b> CTPHQ have produced a short and exciting 2D animation film aimed at Police Officers and Police staff, predominately focused on those performing frontline roles dealing with the public, although suitable for all roles and positions across the policing organisation. The link will allow you access to view and download the video via 'Box'.
<a href="http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002446/244676e.pdf">http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002446/244676e.pdf</a>	<b><i>A Teacher's Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism</i></b> is a concise and practical guide for teachers and educators on how to manage classroom discussions about controversial issues with a view to preventing violent extremism. The Guide contains factual information that debunks myths and misunderstandings surrounding the issues and presents positive messages. It also includes practical tips and recommendations on how to engage learners in meaningful conversations and debates as well as prepare and manage classroom discussions on the subject. Finally, it provides examples of materials and key references that can help teachers feel more confident in tackling the issue.



# Links and Resources – Act E-Learning

## What materials are available?

- *The ACT Awareness E-Learning is an entry level, interactive online product that provides nationally recognised corporate CT guidance to help learners better understand, and mitigate against current terrorist methodology.*
- *The eLearning modules covered are, 1) Introduction to Terrorism, 2) Identifying Suspicious Vulnerabilities, 3) How to Identify and Respond to Suspicious Behaviour, 4) How to Identify and Deal with a Suspicious Item, 5) What to do in the Event of a Bomb Threat, 6) How to Respond to a Firearms and Weapons attack, 7) Summary and Supporting Material.*
- *The ACT App currently provides access to 1) CT Policing’s suite of ACT training products, 2) Suite of NaCTSO guidance videos, 3) Latest reference document and publications, 4) ACT online reporting form and confidential hotline, 5) Emergency response and post-incident guidance, 6) Contact details for NaCTSO and other key agencies, 7) Live-time news from UK Protect*

## How can they be useful to Local Authorities?

- *Potential to reach every employee within the local authority, not just those in a security or customer facing role, ‘Security is everyone’s responsibility’.*
- *Time and cost effective.*
- *Can be completed in groups or individual learning.*
- *Access to all the latest guidance videos and reference documents/publications*

## Where to find App



- [Google Play](#) or [App Store](#)
- Then email [ct@highfieldelearning.com](mailto:ct@highfieldelearning.com) to request a username or password
- Please note access is for business / professional use only

## Where to find E-Learning



- To register please visit <http://ct.highfieldelearning.com/>

## Contacts



- Who to contact regarding E-Learning material and App
- [ct@highfieldelearning.com](mailto:ct@highfieldelearning.com)

## How to make a Prevent referral

1. Speak to your safeguarding lead.
2. Refer to your Local Authority Prevent team.
3. Report directly to the Police 101, 999 or online [met.police.uk](https://met.police.uk) report a crime or contact us.
4. Contact the Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764
5. Contact the anti-terror hotline on 0800 789 321
6. Report suspicious activity to MI5 via [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
7. Contact crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Want to use our national referral form in your organisation? Speak to your local Prevent Policing team for more information.

For more advice or support, visit [www.ActEarly.UK](https://www.ActEarly.UK)



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