

COMMUNITIES DEFEAT TERRORISM

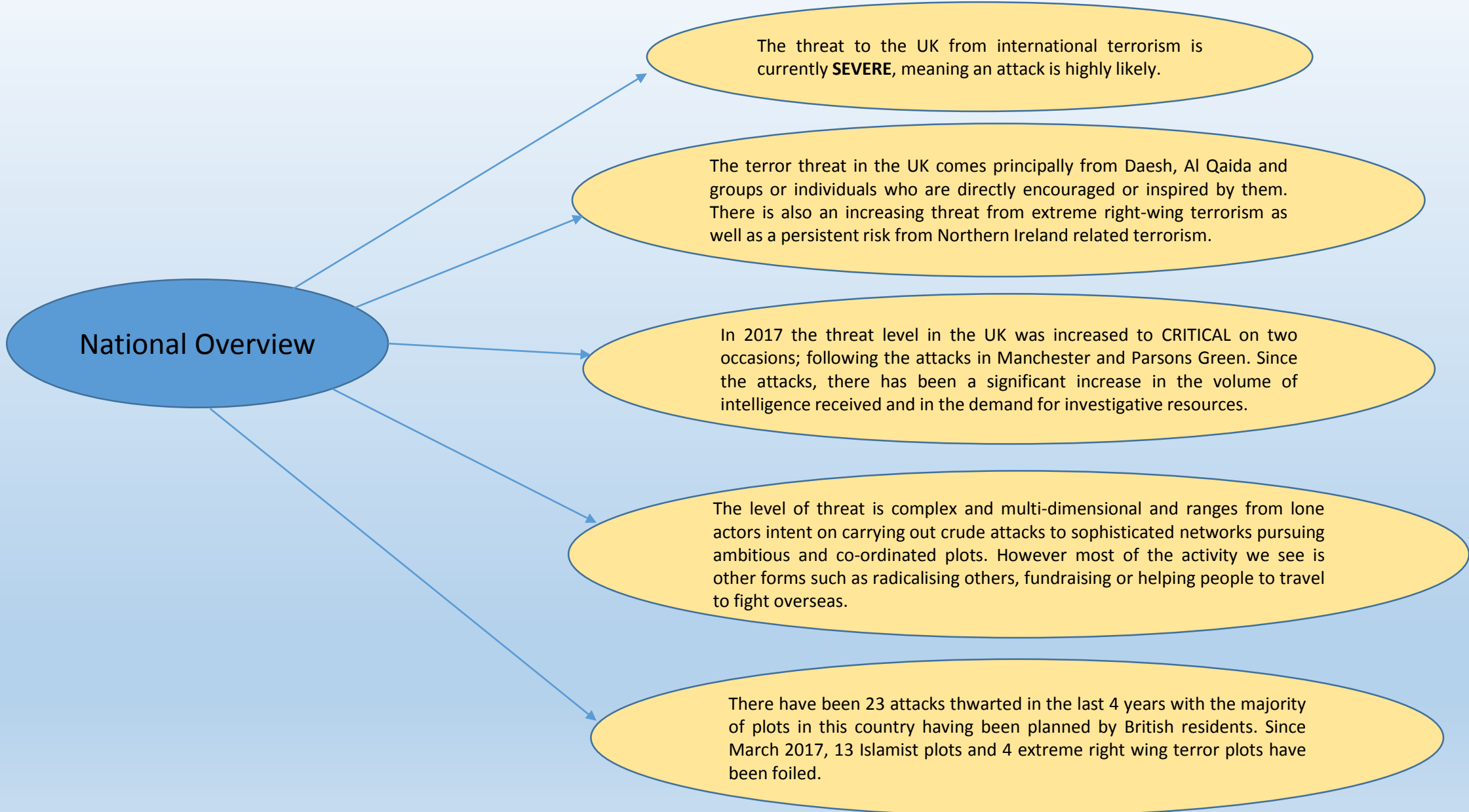
If you see or hear something
that could be terrorist related,
ACT on your instincts and report
it to the police, in confidence,
at gov.uk/ACT.

Your actions could save lives.



This Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) looks to highlight the threats and vulnerabilities from terrorism and extremism within West Yorkshire. It aims to increase police and partnership awareness of these issues.

Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) 1st Jan 2018 – 21st November 2018



National Overview

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is currently **SEVERE**, meaning an attack is highly likely.

The terror threat in the UK comes principally from Daesh, Al Qaida and groups or individuals who are directly encouraged or inspired by them. There is also an increasing threat from extreme right-wing terrorism as well as a persistent risk from Northern Ireland related terrorism.

In 2017 the threat level in the UK was increased to **CRITICAL** on two occasions; following the attacks in Manchester and Parsons Green. Since the attacks, there has been a significant increase in the volume of intelligence received and in the demand for investigative resources.

The level of threat is complex and multi-dimensional and ranges from lone actors intent on carrying out crude attacks to sophisticated networks pursuing ambitious and co-ordinated plots. However most of the activity we see is other forms such as radicalising others, fundraising or helping people to travel to fight overseas.

There have been 23 attacks thwarted in the last 4 years with the majority of plots in this country having been planned by British residents. Since March 2017, 13 Islamist plots and 4 extreme right wing terror plots have been foiled.

Lone Actors

Lone actors are those who plan and commit attacks alone without a network around them. The threat from individuals acting on their own is not linked to one specific ideology, attacks in the past have been committed by those with an Islamist and Extreme Right Wing ideology and others who have no ideology at all. Lone actor attacks are encouraged/accepted by both Islamist and Extreme Right Wing groups.

Some key behaviours/indicators associated with lone actors are listed below, however these should not be relied upon solely when making an assessment of lone actors and are merely some of a wide spectrum of indicators:

- Personal grievance
- Feelings of inadequacy
- Desensitised to violence
- Escalation / de-escalation in overt behaviour
- Fixation
- Deviance
- Social exclusion

ALM

Al-Muhajiroun (ALM) is an Islamist extremist group which is supportive of Daesh. Their main aim is to establish an Islamic Caliphate governed by Sharia Law. In the UK it is illegal to be a member of ALM.

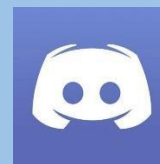
With the recent release of ALM members in October 2018 this has the potential to see a re-emergence of the terrorist group and its attempts to recruit new members from UK communities.

Extremism in Prisons

There is a risk of prisoners both TACT (those charged and sentenced with terrorist related offences) and Non-TACT (those charged and sentenced to none terrorist related offences) being radicalised in prison and radicalising others. There are processes in place to manage this where it comes to the attention of the Regional Counter Terrorism Team, which involves working closely with Police, partners and other stakeholders inside and outside of prisons. Training also takes place to raise the awareness of Counter Terrorism and Extremism, with the aim that staff/stakeholders working and visiting prisons are able to confidently report any concerns. Separation Centres operate nationally for those whom are deemed the most risk.

Social Media

Whilst the use of mainstream platforms such as Facebook and Twitter still exist, extremist activity has increasingly shifted onto more encrypted and private communication channels. In light of the shift towards increasing usage of fringe sites, it would be beneficial for partners to be aware of these less mainstream social media platforms. The list provided here is by no means comprehensive but highlights a few of the more common lesser known legitimate sites that have been found to be used by persons with an extremist mind set. Popular platforms for the Extreme Right Wing include:



Discord



GAB



Wire



Tutanota



BITCHUTE

Online Extremism

Online radicalisation of individuals remains a key concern. Terrorist groups such as Daesh rely heavily on their propaganda being shared online where it is used to radicalise, encourage support and provoke individuals to carry out attacks both abroad and in the UK. Tackling extremist material is therefore an essential part of protecting the public and preventing offences that incite or encourage acts of terrorism. It is therefore important to be able to recognise those that are being drawn into online extremism at the earliest opportunity so that intervention at an early stage can steer individuals away from becoming involved in terrorist activities.

Publication seen recently include:

- **Knights of the Lone Jihad** and **Tehreek-i-Taliban (Pakistani Taliban)** aimed at convincing women to join and participate in jihad.
- There have been several unofficial publications released over the course of 2018 including **Shabab al-Kilafah (The Youth of the Caliphate)**. This magazine encourages Muslims living in the West to carry out attacks using guns, knives, bombs, and trucks. Issue 1 was published on October 10th 2018 and included a poster **encouraging lone wolf attacks in Australia**.
- "**Media jihad**," emphasized the role of online jihadis and encouraged them to dedicate time everyday to supporting ISIS online by purchasing a phone or a laptop to be exclusively used for online jihadi activities, requesting and activating social media accounts by contacting Ansar Bank, and installing browsers such as Brave, UC browser, Puffin, and Via.
- In October 2018 the extremist media group **Al-Abd Al-Faqir** released propaganda images online threatening grenade attacks against the Pope.



Al-Abd Al-Faqir

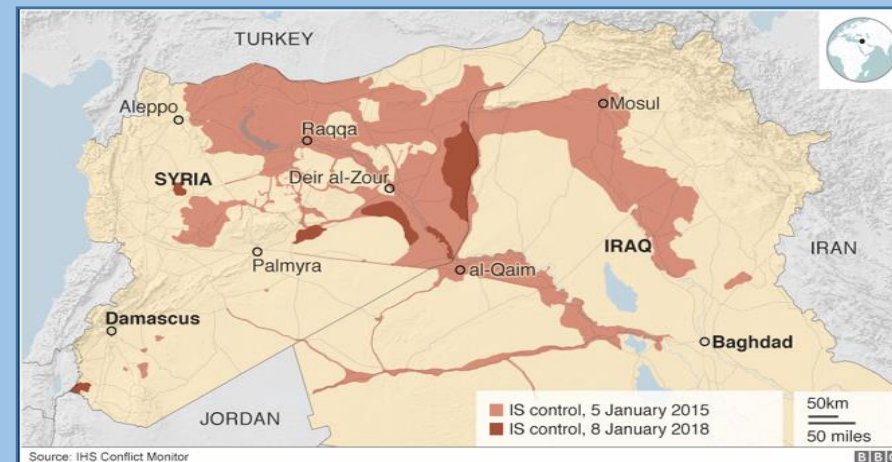


Shabab al-Kilafah (The Youth of the Caliphate).

Syria Travellers

Despite the continuing collapse of Daesh's self declared "caliphate" there is potential for travel to conflict zones such as Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen, Egypt and Myanmar however there is no indication of widespread travel interest in the region. This is reflective of both a regional and national downwards trend in travel. There remains the possibility that frustrated travellers (those who can not go due to tighter restrictions at the borders with Turkey) may look to undertake alternative action in lieu of travel. This could be linked to lone actors, with those frustrated travellers planning attacks closer to home.

There is a potential threat from UK nationals who are out in conflict zones who may wish to return to the UK due to the amount of territory lost.



Far Right

CTP NE continues to see protest activity by Far Right (FR) and Extreme Right Wing (XRW) groups who remain responsive to local issues and current affairs including child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the housing of refugees. This is primarily due to their perception that CSE cases are often associated with Asian male offenders. The trial of 29 people, predominantly from Dewsbury and Huddersfield, was held at Leeds Crown Court in 2018 for historic sexual abuse and grooming females aged between 12-18 years old. This attracted demonstrations from **Britain First**, and counter demonstrations from **Kirklees Stand Up to Racism** across West Yorkshire. This had the potential to increase community tensions / public order and instances of public disorder .

In May 2018 FR activist Tommy ROBINSON was arrested outside Leeds Crown Court for breach of the peace after reporting live during an ongoing CSE trial. This subsequently sparked demonstrations across the country for the 'Free Tommy Robinson Campaign'. Demonstrations held within West Yorkshire include **National Front** holding a small demonstration in **Wakefield** in July 2018. This was originally planned as an anti-grooming march however after Tommy ROBINSON was imprisoned this turned into a Free Tommy Robinson demonstration. This attracted a small number of people, around 23, and a counter protest of around 90 people. The low turnout could be attributed to a larger demonstration which took place in neighbouring **Leeds** on the same day. This was attended by 1,000 people, of which 250 were from right wing groups and 750 were counter protesters. In attendance were FR/XRW groups such as **North East Infidels**, **Yorkshire's Finest**, **Yorkshire Patriots**, **National Front** , **North East EDL** and counter demonstrations were seen by **Leeds Stand Up to Racism**, **Leeds United Against Fascism** and **Leeds Antifascist Network**. The demonstration passed with minimal arrests/issues.

West Yorkshire has seen FR / XRW intelligence reporting across all 5 districts during 2018 emphasising the breadth of coverage these groups have and support across the region.

Extreme Right Wing

The threat from the Far Right and Extreme Right Wing is a concern and in October 2018, MI5 publically announced that they are to take the lead in combating Domestic Extremism encompassing both the FR and XRW.

Groups like **National Action (XRW)** saw an increase in their following and activities resulting in their proscription as a recognised terrorist organisation (making it a criminal offence to support or be a member of the group after 16th December 2016). National Action have since re-branded as **NS131** and **Scottish Dawn**, both of which have been added to the proscription.

Since its proscription 10 people have been convicted for being members of National Action. 3 people from West Yorkshire (2 from Calderdale, 1 from Leeds) have been arrested for being members of National Action.

Support for National Action has also been seen in the British Army where a Corporal was found guilty of being a member. Links have since been established with the British armed forces who are now working closely with Prevent.

Good Partnership Work

An example of successful Prevent partnership working between local authority and CTP NE is a referral that was received by a vigilant local council worker who identified FR/XRW memorabilia in a house they attended. Through being vigilant and sharing with Prevent, CTP NE were able to mitigate any risks and provide early intervention to a potential vulnerable person.

Emerging Themes for CTP NE

Mental Health in The CT World

Schizophrenia, Personality Disorder and Autistic Spectrum Disorder are common disorders seen in Prevent referrals where mental health is seen as a vulnerability contributing to the overarching CT concern. There are concerns that Daesh is deliberately using propaganda which targets those with mental health concerns, encouraging them to carry out violent attacks using every day easily accessible objects.

Women in The CT World

Horizon scanning has shown that Daesh are continuing in their attempts to engage and recruit women. In more recent CTP NE investigations women have increasingly become prominent. There have been the TACT convictions of females from Leeds and Halifax, as well as increased prevent referrals of females from Calderdale and Bradford.

Chemical Weapons / Bio Warfare

The UK Security Minister and the National CT Lead have warned that the potential for chemical or biological weapons attacks in the UK is becoming ever more likely. Whilst no specific plots have been identified Daesh still hold aspirations for mass casualty attacks. With Daesh having used poisonous gas attacks in Iraq / Syria there is the risk that these methodologies could be replicated over on home soil by UK residents or returnees. The UK saw 2 chemical attacks in 2018 in Salisbury.

High School Massacre Infatuation

Over the past 12 months there have been several CT cases in the North East which have shown persons with an infatuation with US style High School Massacres. The infatuation has predominantly arisen from those displaying extreme right wing tendencies and behaving in a lone actor manner.

New Social Media Platforms

Whilst many large social media sites have closed the accounts of known FR and XRW groups and individuals, including the EDL and Britain First, there remains a plethora of other social media applications for people to use. These lesser known sites are less regulated and allow more radical types of content and discussion. This could ultimately lead to new threats in the online sphere of social media.

Cryptocurrency

The use of cryptocurrency by extremists is becoming an emerging method of transferring funds to extremist groups. Sympathisers of terrorist organisations (Daesh and al-Qaeda) continued to take advantage of cryptocurrency adoption. Daesh, for example, have launched cryptocurrency donation campaigns.

Drones

Drones have been used by criminals in recent years mainly for transporting contraband into prisons. Daesh have also published the use of drones in propaganda material.

Gaming Chat Functionality

CT policing has seen a movement towards gaming platforms and the use of their inbuilt chat functionalities.