

Partnership Meeting 20th February, 2025 – Meeting Notes

1. Cuckooing and Operation Trespass: Protecting Vulnerable Individuals

Kayleigh from **Merseyside Police** discussed the increasing issue of **cuckooing**—the practice of criminals taking over someone’s home for illegal activities such as **drug distribution, storage, consumption, or sex work**. This exploitative crime often targets vulnerable individuals.

Merseyside Police Initiatives: Operation Sanctuary & Operation Trespass

- **Operation Sanctuary** focuses on modern slavery prevention, aiming to reduce drug-related deaths, support victims, and break down the stigma around seeking police help.
- **Operation Trespass** is specifically dedicated to tackling **cuckooing**, ensuring that victims are identified, and properties are secured from further criminal activity. If an address is repeatedly reported for cuckooing, the police temporarily shut it down to prevent further exploitation.

How to Spot Signs of Cuckooing

Community awareness is key to tackling this issue. Signs that a property may be involved in cuckooing include:

- ✓ **Unusual activity** – Increased noise, frequent visitors at all hours, doors left open or wedged ajar.
- ✓ **Signs of exploitation** – The resident becomes withdrawn, isolates from family and friends, or appears afraid.
- ✓ **Changes in behavior** – Refusing entry to landlords or law enforcement, frequently requesting new keys or fobs.
- ✓ **Suspicious financial shifts** – The occupant suddenly appears to have more money or resources than usual.
- ✓ **Out-of-place items** – Objects around the home that don’t match the resident’s usual lifestyle.

How Cuckooing Happens

Perpetrators **manipulate their victims** in several ways:

- Offering **money or companionship** to those in financial hardship or social isolation.
- Exploiting **debts** owed by the victim.
- Instilling **fear**, preventing victims from seeking help due to threats or concerns about being labelled a **"snitch" or "grass"**

Community Awareness & Reporting

Many victims of cuckooing don't realize they are being exploited, making it essential for the wider community to be vigilant. If you notice suspicious activity, report it to the police. Protecting vulnerable individuals from cuckooing is a collective responsibility.

For more information: <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/police-forces/merseyside-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/2025/february/cuckooing/>

2. Supporting Young People into Employment: How Social Care Can Benefit from The King's Trust

Katie from The King's Trust shared how the organization works to **break down barriers to employment** for young people aged **18-30**, particularly those who have faced disadvantages such as **mental or physical health struggles, abuse, or financial instability**. By helping them gain skills, confidence, and work experience, the Trust aims to **break the cycle** where financial insecurity negatively impacts mental well-being. Many young people are eager to work but just need a little lift to get started.

How The King's Trust Supports Young People

- **Skills Building & Pre-Employment Programs** – Preparing young people for the workplace.
- **Mentorship & Ongoing Support** – The Trust provides **up to three months** of continued guidance after placement.
- **Pathway to Work** – Helping individuals set **long-term career goals** and access meaningful opportunities.

How Social Care Organizations Can Get Involved

Social care organizations looking to fill vacancies can partner with The King's Trust through different levels of engagement:

✓ Level 1 – Recruitment Event (28th March at The Learning Foundry)

A fast-track 10-minute interview process to match young people with vacancies.

✓ Level 2 – One-Week Employer Engagement

An organization hosts talks and workshops tailored to their vacancies to introduce young people to the sector.

✓ Level 3 – Three-Week Work Placements

Structured hands-on experience within an organization to help candidates develop skills and workplace familiarity.

✓ Level 4 – Paid Secondment Opportunities

The King's Trust funds a secondment, allowing young people to gain employment experience at no cost to the employer.

All engagement levels are customized to each organization's needs, ensuring a mutually beneficial pathway for both young people and employers in the social care sector.

For social care providers, this presents a valuable opportunity to recruit motivated young individuals, while also making a positive social impact.

For more information: katie.taylor@kingstrust.org.uk or scan here



3. Preventing Radicalization & the Rise of Incel Extremism

Deborah from **Liverpool City Council's Prevent Team** highlighted the ongoing efforts to **protect vulnerable individuals from extremist ideologies**, including both **terrorist groups and the growing threat of misogynistic 'incel' communities**.

While radicalization is often associated with political or religious extremism, incel (involuntary celibate) groups promote deep-seated hatred toward women, posing a rising concern—especially among young men facing social isolation, past trauma, or difficulties in relationships. These individuals, often struggling with abuse, addiction, financial instability, or loneliness, are increasingly targeted by both far-right movements and online forums fostering resentment and hostility.

Who Is Vulnerable?

Those most at risk of radicalization—whether by terrorist groups or incel ideology—are often individuals with underlying vulnerabilities, including:

- Past trauma (abuse, addiction, financial hardship)
- Social isolation and a lack of support systems
- Difficulties forming relationships, especially among young men
- Exposure to online extremist content, including incel forums and far-right ideologies

Key Statistics

- In **2023-24**, there were **6,922 referrals** to Prevent, marking a **1.5% increase** from previous years.
- Only **7% of referrals were adopted into the Channel program**, a voluntary support system designed to prevent individuals from becoming involved in extremism.
- Consent is required for Channel participation—individuals must **recognize themselves as victims and agree to receive help**.
- **Participation does not lead to a criminal record**, serving as a **safety net** to prevent individuals from entering the justice system.
- The **most common extremist threat** in the area comes from **far-right groups**.
- Alarmingly, over **40% of referrals involve young people aged 11-15**.

Key Trends

- Radicalization isn't just political or religious—online spaces increasingly foster violent misogyny.
- Young men with social challenges may be drawn into incel groups, which fuel anger, resentment, and in extreme cases, violent ideologies.
- Far-right radicalization and incel extremism often overlap, targeting socially isolated individuals.

How Social Care Organizations Can Get Involved

- **Duty of Care** – Local authorities and social care organizations have a legal responsibility to help prevent radicalization and safeguard at-risk individuals.
- **Free Prevent Training** – 1.5-hour sessions (online or in-person) are available to social care staff, with no attendance limits, to recognize warning signs of radicalization.
- **Understanding the Referral Process** – Training covers how to refer individuals to the Channel program, ensuring they receive support before extremist influences take hold.
- **Early Intervention** – Social care providers play a key role in identifying vulnerable individuals and offering support to prevent escalation into extremist ideologies.
- **Targeting Warning Signs** – Identifying individuals displaying anger towards women, hostility toward relationships, or engagement in toxic online communities that may signal radicalization risks.
- **Channel Program** – Referring at-risk individuals to the Channel program for guidance and intervention, preventing criminalization and long-term harm.
- **Raising Awareness & Offering Support** – Social care organizations can provide structured support to help individuals avoid being drawn into extremist ideologies, including far-right or incel-related beliefs.

For more information:

- **Prevent Engagement Officer:** Deborah Rigby 07394559107
Deborah.Rigby@liverpool.gov.uk (Until 31st March 2025)
- **Prevent Engagement Officer:** Declan Sammin 077394559105
Declan.sammin@Liverpool.gov.uk
- **Prevent Education Officer:** Joanne Fitzsimmons 07515332702
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4. Updates from Liverpool Social Care Partnership

Jaishan covered the support available from LSCP, including data security protection, cyber resilience initiatives, recruitment opportunities, and upcoming social care events. Key discussions focused on compliance targets, available resources, and ways to get involved in ongoing initiatives.

Data Security Protection Toolkit (DSPT)

- Target: 80% overall compliance by December 2025 (Liverpool currently at 67%).
- Support: LSCP support now available until December 2025.
- Contact ann@lscpinfo.co.uk for individual support.

NW Cyber Digi-Tech Network

- Recent Meeting: Well attended by over 60+ care provider organisations in the North West, featuring talks from PainChek, SmartSocks, Littlefish, and more (complete report can be found [here](#)).
- Next Meeting: 19th June, 2025 on Zoom including talks by CareyAI (AI Care Planning), NW CRC, Arquella (Fall Prevention tech).
- Contact jaishan@lscpinfo.co.uk to get involved.

Data Security & Protection Audits (DSPA)

- Starts next week for DSPT-compliant organizations.
- Includes: Cyber resilience drills, business continuity testing, full evaluation, report, certificate, and recommendations.
- Contact marketing@lscpinfo.co.uk to participate.

Recruitment Events

- Upcoming job fairs by LSCP:
 - **Friday, 28.02.2025** (The Blue Base - Salop St, Liverpool L4 4BZ) | 10 AM – 1:30 PM
 - **Wednesday, 04.06.2025** (The Liner Hotel - Lord Nelson St, Liverpool L3 5QB) | 10 AM – 1:30 PM
- CACHE L1/L2 Student Interviews: Monthly rotations available.
- Contact carley@lscpinfo.co.uk to get involved.

Additional Information

- LSCP Physical Newsletter: Expected second week of March.
- NW Cyber Resilience Centre: Police-funded support with Merseyside Police Cyber Unit.

- Contact jaishan@lscpinfo.co.uk for more info.

Upcoming Wider Social Care Events

- **10-11 March:** Managers Conference
- **13 March:** Care England 2025 Conference & Exhibition
- **19-20 March:** UK Care Week 2025
- **13 May:** Care Roadshow Northwest 2025
- **05 June:** Social Care Summit 2025
- **08-09 October:** Care Show Birmingham
- **26-28 November:** NCASC 2025