



P R E V E N T

INFORMATION UPDATE FOR EDUCATION

Hi everyone, this newsletter looks at a couple of 'emerging trends' and community tensions.

A new report warns that terrorists may be able to hack into driverless cars, according to the **Sun newspaper**. The Local Government Association's Future Crime Horizon Scan has said there is "particular concern" about driverless cars being used as weapons for terror attacks. The report adds: "This would serve to proliferate vehicular terrorism by reducing the need for driver recruitment, enabling lone actor attacks, and potentially co-ordinating a large number of vehicles at once".

BBC News reports a court has heard that a PhD student was designing and building a drone capable of being used in attacks by a terrorist group. Mohamad Al-Bared had several devices seized from his property during a raid, including a 3-D printer. A drone was shown to jurors at Birmingham Crown Court which appeared to have "all the components required for it to fly" and it was suggested that the device was manufactured to deliver a bomb or chemical weapon. He was found guilty of preparing acts of terrorism and will be sentenced on the 27th November 2023.

Community Tensions

Responding effectively to tensions within communities is one step towards reducing terrorism within the UK. Terrorists are often individuals who don't believe the world they live in is a place they want to be - they don't agree with either the government, the laws or the prevalent culture and use terror to try and force change.

Do you know what issues exist in communities you work with, or in?

If we recognise when there are issues within our own communities and take action to resolve them then we are 'doing our bit' to keep everyone safe. Examples of community tensions that we have seen in the last few years include: parents demonstrating and removing children from schools where they think LGBT issues are being promoted, going against their beliefs; local demonstrations against plans to house asylum seekers nearby; communities reacting to deaths/injuries involving local young people and police officers / police vehicles.

If you want to report community tensions we have a dedicated tension monitoring e-mail address you can use -

tension.monitoring@darlington.gov.uk

or you can contact Jim or me directly using the info below. We will then initiate conversations with partners to investigate and if necessary implement work with communities to reduce or remove the tensions.

REMEMBER - You're either part of the solution, or you're part of the problem!



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