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SPOT THE SIGNS OF ONLINE RADICALISATION TRAINING

For individuals and groups using the 'Zak' simulation

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Background

The PREVENT strategy was launched in 2007 and sought to address terrorism. It was the preventative strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. In 2011 the agenda was re-launched to:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.
- provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- work with wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health.

Kent Police and partners in the local authority and the University of Kent consulted to work together as part of this PREVENT programme and 'Zak' was launched in July 2013.

'Zak' – the simulation

'Zak' offers you the opportunity to train on key aspects of online radicalisation - gaining insight into the process and implications for the victim and groomer. It is an interactive and immersive simulation, based on real cases and research. 'Zak' is designed for both professionals and young people, identifying how young people are groomed online for the purposes of extremism.

It follows the compelling and contemporary story of Zak and how he becomes involved with extremists. Through the use of a social media style interface, with photos, chat, likes and shares, you are able to learn about grooming by tracking the behaviour of the groomer and see the implications for the victim.

It provides an innovative focus in the classroom that will promote discussion in PSHE or Citizenship on the topics of extremism, radicalisation and internet safety. 'Zak' can be facilitated in different ways - in small groups of 3 or 4 around a computer, from a single whiteboard at the front of the class or possibly individually dependent upon need, age or ability.

'Zak' for Professionals and young people

'Zak' includes links with tools and reflective questions about how to respond to young people who are potentially at risk, as well as a comprehensive training pack and detailed answers. An introductory video by Zak himself sets the scene. Two further videos show different endings to the story.

For professionals

To gain insight into grooming behaviour, how to spot it on different social media and, vitally, how to help victims protect themselves from exploitation.

For direct work with young people

To learn about grooming methods via social media in a real-life 'Facebook' style scenario. By understanding the behaviours and implications of the characters, young people will learn how to keep themselves safe. Players see that Zak becomes groomed and he gradually becomes exposed to a radical cause. Young people have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the timeline of Zak's social network page. They interact with his friends and contacts; see the content of the messages he has posted and received, and the web sites he has visited.

Objectives

The package was designed to meet the following learning objectives:

- Increase the awareness of young people around the process of radicalisation of individuals, particularly those who are involved in the transition from home to University.
- Enable young people to identify and discuss factors/indicators of radicalisation in their peers.
- Encourage young people to consider aspects of internet safety.
- Encourage self-reflection on their own and others' behaviour.
- Facilitate understanding regarding where and to whom young people should report their concerns on radicalisation and internet safety.
- Identify some of the procedures in place to support individuals in a pre-criminal space.

The top 5 comments from the evaluation:

"Increases staff confidence and awareness of radicalisation and internet grooming."

"The related training pack has been rated excellent by 90% of the users and good or very good by the remaining 10%."

"100% of pupils reported to their teaching staff that they learned things they did not know before and found 'Zak' engaging."

"Although designed for internet use, 'Zak' has capacity to be used as a laminated hands-on learning resource and has been used in this way, where internet was not available."

"'Zak' raised specific issues for schools regarding social media that staff were able to respond to."

Book your place

Just pay for the day's training and the simulation is then free for a year book here: www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/ccp/events/index1Demo.html NOTE: If you are a school located in Kent or Medway the training is free, just select Kent/Medway ticket option to register.

Contact us directly for group discount, or to arrange bespoke training in your organisation Telephone 01227 827546 or email ccp@kent.ac.uk

More from the Centre for Child Protection

'Rosie 1'

A simulation focusing on an initial assessment visit to a family. The initially benign situation rapidly develops into a case of child sexual abuse. Free download and worksheet from our website.

'Rosie 2'

It is now 5 years on from 'Rosie 1' and the case is still active and focuses on neglect. Professionals consider and discuss a range of child protection issues throughout the 13 scenes in 'Rosie 2'.

'Zak'

An innovative social media style simulation for young people in schools focusing on online grooming and the radicalisation process.

'Visiting Elliot'

Developed in collaboration with Kent Police and Kent Probation, 'Elliot' is designed to train professionals who visit sex offenders on licence in the community.

'Looking out for Lottie'

Aimed at young people aged 14 and over and child protection professionals, this training tool focuses on child sexual exploitation and online grooming.

RITA

Responsive InTeractive Advocate (RITA) was developed with the aim of supporting the UK's ageing population through the use of responsive and interactive avatars.

MA and standalone modules

Rigorous academic courses with a focus on 'real life' application providing high quality, targeted and innovative child protection learning to meet the needs of all professionals.

Standalone modules

These short courses are suitable for a wide range of professionals and are a good taster for MA level study. Modules available include 'Direct work with children' and 'New perspectives on assessment and observation'.

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