Message

From: Charles Loft [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=14BD5BFAB9D24A9E8D5627D01411DF13-CHARLES LOF]
Sent: 21/05/2025 17:05:28
To: Mark Norris, LGA Policy [Mark.Norris@local.gov.uk]
CC: Jessica Norman [Jessica.Norman@local.gov.uk]; James Alexander [James.Alexander@local.gov.uk]
Subject: VFI

VFI

Mark

I have created a new folder on SharePoint for Violent Fixated Individuals stuff *Cabinet Office Body

The meeting today was interesting and very wide in terms of attendance: T1D* MOJ, MHCLG, CTP, DFE, DSIT, NCA, JTAC, JO, and others. I don't even know what some of these are!

It was organised by the cross-govt VFI unit led by T2D and working out of the Home Office.

It originates from a National Security Council meeting in March which identified VFIs as a priority issue.

Despite this wide interest and prioritisation, the issue remains – as I think everyone recognises – somewhat nebulous.

A study of 16 cases (including one from China and other non UK as well as UK) selected because they resemble terrorism but aren't ideological ('terrorisn't' was an interesting – but unofficial - term), concluded that there are generally common themes which are fairly familiar from terrorist attacks – social isolation, living o0nline, male roughly 50% neurodivergent or mental health issue, often with a personal grievance (eg break up, parental issue, bullying) but failed to identify what sets these people apart from the large numbers of people who fit that bill but don't become obsessed with violence. Recognition that there are parallels with pornography escalating to VAWG through desensitisation but we are a long way from any kind of sophisticated analysis (no one is pretending otherwise).

Jess attended and picked up on links/similarities to our work on councillor harassment, especially in the sphere of grievances being a trigger.

I guess the questions remaining are what sort of practitioner might come across people who it is worth flagging as at risk of becoming VFIs and what sort of interventions might work

Interestingly they are saying (or considering saying) that there has to be an intent, because if you include those with no specific intention to act out violently, then we'd be overwhelmed. But until someone has an intent how do you know if they are ideologically motivated or VFI and also how does Prevent pick up those with an intent, because isn't that then a police matter (I didn't ask this as it only occurred to me later)?

The meeting on Tuesday is 'for practitioners' so I need to check whether we should go – although Shaida invited me specifically I think to raise the SIGCE. Jess and I wondered if ADASS and ADCS should be looped into this. I didn't hear them mentioned yet.

I have also suggested they invite Gareth to an academic seminar they are doing.

There's some slides and papers in the folder on today's workshops

There was no opportunity to raise the SIGCE role as there was no discussion of a practitioner network. Possible will be Tuesday

Jess have I missed anything important?
Regards

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