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Police, school boards establish policy to identify potential threats

By DAVID LEA
Metroland Media Group

Directors from Halton's school boards joined Halton Police and other local agencies last week in endorsing policy intended to identify threats within local schools.

Halton Deputy Police Chief Andrew Fletcher described the Halton Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTTRA) as a multi-discipline team approach intended to identify, evaluate and assess potential threats to students.

"The process is set up now so that a teacher or a principal (who) sees worrisome behaviour in a student, whether it is by texting, whether it is by writing, whether it is by activities, they have a three-stage approach to it," said Fletcher.

The purpose of stage one of the VTTRA is to determine whether a student actually poses a threat to the safety of others.

This can be discussed at the school level, but if the threatening behaviour is more extreme, school administrators can call for a VTTRA protocol assessment with police, psychologists and other health-care providers to determine how serious the threat is.

"They meet and assess by sharing information. The process breaks down some of the barriers of working in isolation, around legal impediments to sharing information," said Fletcher.

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Hilarious headgear

Donning her favourite octopus, Riley Lalach, 8, made a great fashion statement at the St. George's Anglican Church's PD Day Kids' Camp Friday. Kids were invited to take part in a variety of fun and games.

Photo by Ted Brown



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