

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | February 2023 | Issue 28



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Article 1 – Change in Law

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Introduction

Welcome to this month's edition of safeguarding news.

The Prevent Duty is something I am sure you are familiar with, through having regular discussions on Safeguarding and Prevent in your reviews with your advisors. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 this has simply been expressed as the need to "prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". The Channel Process is a multi-agency strategy to try and divert anyone on the fringes of radicalisation / extremist behaviour. The Prevent strategy reinforces the Fundamental British Values of Mutual Respect, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Tolerance of Others and Democracy. A review into the Prevent strategy has been published and has caused a certain amount of controversy. You may be interested in the following articles: [Independent Review of Prevent \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714447/independent-review-of-prevent-report.pdf) [UK: Shawcross review of Prevent is 'deeply prejudiced and has no legitimacy' | Amnesty International UK](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/07/uk-shawcross-review-of-prevent-is-deeply-prejudiced-and-has-no-legitimacy/)

On Monday 19 December, the Government announced details for the Protect Duty, now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was tragically killed alongside 21 others in the horrific terrorist attack on Manchester Arena in 2017. The Homeland Security Group has provided a factsheet for organisations to socialise what the law will do, what the tier system is, and how the law will be managed. You may find the following of interest published on the website of Protect UK: ["Martyn's Law" - What you need to know | ProtectUK](https://www.protectuk.org.uk/martyns-law-what-you-need-to-know/)

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Article 1

Honour based abuse is one of the many safeguarding issues we try to raise awareness of. Amongst the many safeguarding issues, which as an educator we try to raise awareness of, is honour based abuse. This is abuse that is committed to defend or protect the 'honour' of a family. Amongst other things this would include the subject of forced marriage. In the news, as I write this article, it has been announced that the law has been changed in England and Wales. The legal minimum age for anyone to get married or take part in a civil partnership whether in a



legally binding or non-legally binding ceremony has been increased to 18. This is something that will come as a relief to many and should go some way to help protect vulnerable children. Previously children of 16 and 17 could get married with parental consent. The law remains unchanged, at the moment in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where it remains at 16. In Northern Ireland parental consent is required, but not it seems in Scotland. You may be interested in the following article: [Minimum marriage age rises to 18 in England and Wales - BBC News](#)

Article 2 – Cold calling

British Gas in February admitted that their agents had broken into people's homes to forcibly install prepayment gas meters. This was for customers who had fallen behind with their payments. The owners of British Gas, Centrica expressed their horror at the situation and have said that such situations will cease. The intrusions were carried out by people working for Arvato Financial Solutions, a company used by British Gas to pursue debts. Acts like this are not only a threat to vulnerable people but also a threat to everyone. Even more frightening, was the fact that an agent followed by an undercover investigator for the Times newspaper when working with a locksmith to force entry into a property said: "This is the exciting bit. I love this bit."

It is worth reminding ourselves of basic checks that we can all perform. Here is a link to some advice from Cheshire police [Advice - Cold Callers/Suspicious Activity - Cheshire Police Alert](#)



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Samaritans	Phone: 116 123 Website: www.samaritans.org
MIND (Mental Health)	Phone: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 Website: www.mind.org.uk
NHS (Urgent medical conditions)	Phone: 111
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	Phone: 999
PREVENT (Suspicious activity, terrorism, radicalization)	Phone: 0800 789 321
RUN. HIDE. TELL. (Although terrorist attacks are very rare, we are not complacent about keeping you safe)	Website: www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe

Relevant links from the last six issues

Safety at Christmas	Christmas safety - RoSPA Bartenders share the times customers used a 'safeword drink' to escape an unsafe situation. Someecards News 'Safe words' people can use in bars and clubs if they feel in danger or uncomfortable ITV News Central
Men's Mental health	https://www.priorygroup.com/blog/40-of-men-wont-talk-to-anyone-about-their-mental-health
Scams	Take Five - To Stop Fraud To Stop Fraud (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk) Friends Against Scams - National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team initiative protecting and preventing people from becoming victims of scams
Sexual Health	https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/ https://www.unaids.org/en/2022-world-aids-day https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/
Stoptober/ Vaping	https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/ https://www.blf.org.uk/take-action/campaign-with-us/stoptober
Grief	www.cruse.org.uk Support and self-care for grief - Mind Get help with grief after bereavement or loss - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Modern Slavery	Modern slavery and human trafficking - National Crime Agency The Issue — Human Trafficking Foundation
Disability Rights	Human Rights: Our Rights - Disability Justice Helplines Disability Rights UK
Dementia	https://www.alzheimersresearchuk/ https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/alzheimers-disease/ https://www.dementiauk.org/about-dementia/young-onset-dementia/