

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | August 2022 | Issue 22



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 – Disability Rights

Article 2 – Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

## Introduction

In this edition of Safeguarding News, we have articles on disability discrimination and modern slavery we hope you find them informative.

I think it's important to keep reminding us of all what safeguarding is and why it is important. Why do we send out this monthly newsletter for example? At Peak, we have a legal responsibility for safeguarding but more importantly we have a moral responsibility. Below are a couple of definitions of safeguarding from a quick internet search.

'All organisations that work with or come into contact with children should have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has a right to equal protection from harm.'

'Safeguarding means protecting a citizen's health, well-being, and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect. It is an integral part of providing high-quality health care. Safeguarding children, young people and adults is a collective responsibility.'

Don't dismiss safeguarding as something that doesn't affect you. The information we provide may prove to come in useful not necessarily in terms of safeguarding yourself, you never know when you may come across a potential safeguarding issue and be called upon to provide support or give objective advice it could be to a friend or a close relative. Even at 'arms-length' these situations can be stressful.

One of the definitions above finishes by saying that safeguarding is a collective responsibility - how right that is. It is only by different parties working together, sharing information, and providing support that we can protect the most vulnerable. There is nothing worse than feeling isolated or powerless to make a difference. Stay safe!

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | August 2022

## Article 1 – Disability Rights

When we talk about equal opportunities, we need to consider all areas of life. Within the law people with disabilities are entitled to access all areas of life, such as transport, access to buildings, education, employment, healthcare, and social services. This is to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity.



There have recently been several incidents in the press about people with disabilities being left on planes once the plane has landed, often for hours.

Why is this more prevalent now? It could be to do with the fact that many of the staff that were employed by airlines before the COVID-19 pandemic either haven't returned to their previous jobs, or those jobs are no longer there due to reduced revenues available to the airlines due to the pandemic.

There are exceptions to the rules, especially on access. If a building is listed, in a conservation area or there is not enough physical space, then the ability to build a ramp or install a lift can be waived. However, it is the responsibility of the business owner to make sure that the person has access to the services in some other way. If you provide a service that most people will access via printed word, then reasonable adjustments should be made, either larger print, braille, or an audio version for people with visual impairments.

As with all discrimination cases, we need to put ourselves in the shoes of the victim. How would you feel if the tables were turned, and you became the victim?

### Useful Links

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/frank-gardner-gatwick-bbc-iberia-express-west-sussex-b2113573.html>

[Human Rights: Our Rights - Disability Justice](#)

[Helplines | Disability Rights UK](#)

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | August 2022

## Article 2 – Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century you would be forgiven for thinking that slavery was an historical event. Sadly, however, this is not the case and is one of highest priorities for the National Crime Agency. It is an often-unseen world which preys on the vulnerable, exploiting them for the financial benefit of the slave master or trafficker. Victims are kept away from the outside world with little, or no way to provide for themselves often in cramped conditions with few possessions or furniture.

How do you spot a potential victim? Do you see someone being given lifts everywhere, not allowed to interact with people outside of their close contacts? Do they always seem to wear the same clothes, look undernourished, frightened, or anxious? Of course, these could be natural personality traits for some people, and we mustn't assume that an anxious person is being abused, but patterns of behaviours may be worth noting and reporting to the police. It could be that several other people have been suspicious of that household or person too and made reports. How would you feel if you did nothing and something bad happened?

Many victims have been trafficked. Trafficking is when someone is moved, illegally, from one place to another, often against the person's wishes. Trafficking happens not only from one country to another but also within a country's borders. Victims are often people who are already vulnerable, for example immigrants, homeless, addicts, or sex workers. They are lured in by the promise of a better life. However, the traffickers will often make a list of expenses, real or not, which the victim then needs to "pay back", effectively reducing their income to a negligible amount. With no money, and no outside contacts these people rapidly become trapped and isolated, never able to pay off the "debts". They will often have passport and other forms of ID taken off them making their chances of escaping and creating a new life even more tricky.

When you are sat in your car waiting for a hand car wash, are you looking at your surroundings? Does the place have proper signage and look permanent? Are the workers properly dressed for the work and the weather? Is there an inside space for the workers when business is slow, or the weather is bad? Is the estimate for a building job too good to be true, and do they have the proper tools and Personal Protective Equipment to do the job? When you are getting your nails done, do the technicians interact with each other, hold proper conversations with the clients?

Keep things in proportion. Not everyone is exploiting their employees, and the majority of employers abide by all the laws and regulations. However, if things don't seem quite right then you must report them to the police. Your gut instinct may be right.

### Useful Links

[Modern slavery and human trafficking - National Crime Agency](#)

[The Issue — Human Trafficking Foundation](#)

[What is human trafficking? - Anti-Slavery International \(antislavery.org\)](#)



# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | August 2022



**Clive Pauling**

Safeguarding Lead

[clive@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk](mailto:clive@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk)

07837 712 510



**Suzanne Hardy**

Safeguarding Deputy

[suzanne@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk)

07903 286 459



**Elizabeth Nicholls**

Safeguarding Deputy

[liz@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk](mailto:liz@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk)

01625 574 856



**Dianne Wilson-Roberts**

Safeguarding Deputy

[dianne@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk](mailto:dianne@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk)

07939 992 088

## **Other contacts:**

Samaritans	Phone: 116 123 Website: <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>
MIND (Mental Health)	Phone: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 Website: <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a>
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: <a href="http://www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe">www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe</a>