

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | April 2021 | Issue 8



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 -
Cuckooing

Article 2 - British
Values, Rule of Law

Introduction

May 10th – 16th is Mental Health Awareness Week. The restrictions during the pandemic have no doubt tested all of us and our mental health. The good news, of course remains the success of the vaccination rollout and the statistics are showing huge reductions in deaths and new cases. We remain on target for the lifting of restrictions and with the summer around the corner there are less excuses to get outdoors and do something different. It is amazing how physical exercise can improve mental health. I keep looking at my bike sat in the shed, (which I must admit hasn't moved for quite some time) the difference though it will make just to get out for a few miles. The chance to clear my head, get the heart pumping will make all the difference to the rest of the day. I wonder which of the 3 options you took when the last restrictions were lifted? Haircut, Pub, Gym? Whichever you chose they would all have had positive benefits for mental health, feeling better about yourself for the haircut, socialising in the beer garden, physical exercise. I will let you know how the bike goes next month!



The link here will take you to the NHS mental health homepage with lots of suggestions and ideas to help improve your mental health. Take some time to have a look through [Every Mind Matters](#) | [One You \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

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Article 1 – Cuckooing

How many of you are gripped by Line of Duty, I find myself quoting things from it all the time (maybe that's sad!). In an episode over the last couple of weeks, the dialogue used the term 'cuckooing'. Shockingly this is on the rise according to recent news reports particularly in the Merseyside area. But what is 'cuckooing'? This is where criminals use other people's property as a base to pursue criminal activity. The criminals select vulnerable people who then, once the practice starts are intimidated, and are reluctant to seek help or maybe become too afraid to go to the authorities for fear they will be accused of being part of the enterprise. The links below provide more information on this awful practice.



[Cuckooing on the rise in Merseyside as vulnerable targeted in 'Line of Duty' style scheme | Granada | ITV News](#)

<https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/resource/cuckooing-advice-for-all/>

Article 2 – British Values, Rule of Law

In our series so far, we have looked at, and discussed the British Values of Mutual Respect and Individual Liberty. In this article we look at the Rule of Law. The law is there to keep us safe, to ensure fairness, to prevent arbitrary use of power, to promote and maintain a level of values and to be consistent with human rights.

Criminal law seeks to punish people for crimes that are threatening, harmful, endangering to health or safety and covers offences against individuals and property. The prosecution is taken out by the state and punishment includes imprisonment, community service and fines.

Civil Law exists for disputes between individuals or organisations. Its intent is to deter or to offer compensation with cases brought to court by the individual or organisation rather than the state.



Legislation is passed by parliament and sets out many of the rules we follow. As accountants we should be aware of the legislation that affects the work we do. The companies act dictates the role of company directors including the requirement to produce annual financial statements. These must be produced in accordance with international and UK accounting standards. All of this you will learn about or have learnt about in your studies particularly at level 4 with Financial Statement of Limited Companies. But there is also tax legislation to follow, the consumer credit act, the sale of goods act, the list goes on and on. As an accountant we must be aware of the legislation and regulation that affects our industry and our work. If we don't, we will not be able to carry out our role competently for our clients and employers. This understanding and influence is part of our Professional Behaviour, which I am sure you will remember is one of our 5 ethical principles.

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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