

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | December 2021 | Issue 14



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newsletter:

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Introduction

It would be wrong of me to produce this edition of safeguarding news without referring to the appalling and tragic cases concerning Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (6) and this week, Star Robinson (16 months). The horrific backgrounds to these children's deaths have been widely reported through the media. Safeguarding, if you are in any doubt, is about ensuring that anybody who has responsibility or contact with a child is collectively responsible for their wellbeing. But it is not just young children who are totally reliant on the care of others that need to be safeguarded. At Peak we support teenagers and adults of all ages, but they too can be vulnerable and exposed to society and the environment we live in. Vulnerability caused by the stresses of everyday life, ill health, mental health, loss, drug and alcohol dependency, the list goes on. So, Peak like every other organisation that has contact with an individual has a duty of care and a social responsibility to help and look after that individual. Making sure they are free from fear and from harm and have the right environment in which to prosper. Talking is often the first step toward change, it really does help, just being able to get things out into the open this is both an acceptance and the start of being able to turn things around. Don't suffer in silence, training to be an accountant will help to open a world of opportunity in which to prosper.

Whatever Christmas you are planning to have stay safe and enjoy it. Let's look forward to the New Year and new opportunities.

Merry Christmas Everyone



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Article 1 – Racism

The damning statements made by Azeem Rafiq to the digital, culture, media and sport committee in November shows how sadly racism still permeates our society. Yorkshire Cricket Club was accused of being institutionally racist meaning that the culture of the club was such that racist comments and behaviour were deemed to be the norm and were classed as being acceptable so nobody in a position of authority and responsibility challenged the situation.

During our current level 4 synoptic course we talk about the importance of having the right 'control environment'. This is the collection of values and attitudes that symbolise the way we work and the approach we have to stakeholders. It is the background to how we behave as an organisation. This is what appears to have gone so very wrong at Yorkshire Cricket Club. The whole purpose of equality and diversity at work is to be open, and to not let discrimination of any kind prevent someone from applying for and working in a role. Indeed, there are real benefits to diversity - different ideas, different views, being able to choose people with the right qualities, experience and knowledge, their ability to do the job and do it well. All of this will help ensure success. None of this is going to be achieved by racist comments and racist behaviour. This link takes you to just one of the many articles written: [Azeem Rafiq: Yorkshire cricket racism scandal - how we got here - BBC Sport](#) Again, speaking out and talking to someone is the start of change, unfortunately given the culture at Yorkshire Cricket Azeem Rafiq was left with no alternative but to whistle blow in order to be heard and for action to be taken. The link below takes you to some more information on recognising and dealing with bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination in the workplace: [Understanding the type of treatment you're experiencing: If you're treated unfairly at work - Acas](#)



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Article 2 – Stay Safe

'Tis the season to be jolly, the festive season is upon us. Unfortunately, Covid isn't aware and as rules and guidance changes who knows what Christmas will bring this year. Please follow the guidance including making sure you get your jabs, first, second and booster as soon as you are able.

Please, whatever you are doing, enjoy yourselves and stay safe I have included a variety of tips below on a twelve tips theme:

- **Secure your ho-ho-home:** Don't be an easy target – thieves will go elsewhere if they have to work hard to steal your stuff. Make sure you lock your windows and doors. Don't invite thieves into your home.
- **Don't let thieves steal your Christmas:** Make sure valuables can't be seen from outside your home. Don't leave Christmas presents in view from outside. Move expensive TVs, audio equipment or computers away from windows or use blinds to keep them hidden from view.
- **Light up for Christmas:** Leave a light on when you go out or use an electronic timer. But make sure you turn off tree lights and other decorations.
- **Santa's little helpers:** Make sure you don't equip a thief with the tools to break into your home. Lock up garden tools, ladders, or anything else that might help a thief commit crime.
- **'Tis the season of purse snatchers:** Make sure you keep your handbag close at all times. Keep your purse or wallet secure and out of sight as much as possible.
- **Shop till you drop:** but keep your shopping bags with you – don't leave them unattended.
- **Sleigh safety:** Put your shopping in the boot – don't leave bags in sight on the seat. Lock your doors while driving.
- **Raise a glass or three:** Christmas is a time for over-indulging. On your night out make sure you stick together with friends and look after each other – don't become isolated [Twelve tips to stay safe this Christmas | Drinkaware](#)
- **Only Santa has a magical vehicle:** don't drink and drive - get a taxi or organise a designated driver
- **On a plate:** Only get into a licensed taxi – make sure it has a licence plate before you get into a car
- **Merry and bright:** don't leave your drink unattended. Don't accept a drink from a stranger.
- **Have a Happy Christmas:** stay safe and secure



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Other contacts

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
Support services for some of the issues discussed this month	Website: Help after rape and sexual assault - NHS (www.nhs.uk) Home Rape Crisis England & Wales Rape Crisis England & Wales Cyber Bulling (supportline.org.uk)