

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | May 2021 | Issue 9



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 -

British Values;
Tolerance of others

Article 2 - Equality
and Diversity

Introduction

Welcome to this month's edition of safeguarding news. Summer it seems has finally arrived, it's amazing what a positive effect good weather has on mental health. Whilst the variant strains of covid are of course a concern the UK vaccination rollout continues to be successful. It is important that we all continue to follow government advice and that includes the advice on having the vaccine. So far, all targets have been met for the unlocking of lockdown fingers crossed it continues but back to the weather again at least we are now more than happy to be outside anyway.

A quick reference back to January's edition where I referred to our online safety policy the government has announced their online harms bill in the Queens speech at the state opening of parliament earlier in the month. This draft legislation has been 2 years in the making. You can read more about this here [Government lays out plans to protect users online - BBC News](#)

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Article 1 – British Values; Tolerance of Others

Our series on British values continues. So far, we have covered Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty and Rule of Law. This month we highlight Tolerance of Others.

A fuller description is 'respecting the **values**, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own on others.' Am sure I am not the only one who now and again listens to a friend seemingly going on about something, and thinking just stop, you are wrong, wanting to interject, to cut them off. But this is what tolerance is all about just because I disagree, does not mean they are not entitled to their point. Furthermore, they are not entitled to impose their ideas, their beliefs on others.

But should we be tolerant if their views are inciteful? Of course not! Their views must comply with the other British Values including the rule of Law. We fortunately live in a democracy where everyone is entitled to free speech (thank goodness). This is one of the things you may have read about in the article on the government online safety legislation included above. The concern that in bringing in the legislation entitlement to free speech will be reduced on social media. It is a positive thing to have a balance of different views and to enjoy a mix of different cultures, it certainly makes life more interesting and in a link to our final article it makes for more sustainable and successful businesses.



Article 2 – Equality and Diversity

At the end of March, it was reported that the Independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities appointed by Boris Johnson following last summer's Black Lives Matter protests had reported their findings on inequality in Britain. The 258-page report concluded that The UK is no longer a country "where the system is deliberately rigged against ethnic minorities" Undoubtedly there is still work to do and there is much to do across the world to harmonise approaches, attitudes and inequality. This recent article is an interesting read [Are businesses really tackling racial inequality? - BBC News](#)



I used to teach corporate governance for CIMA and ACCA exam papers. Corporate Governance is all about advice on how to run organisations from the top including the boardroom. Recommending best practice in terms of controls, compliance and strategy. Diversity in the boardroom is important to get a balanced input of views. Organisations sell to all manner of different people from different backgrounds, must deal with suppliers potentially from all over the world. Therefore, isn't it important that the management and staff have the range of backgrounds and experiences to understand their markets and to be able to liaise and communicate effectively with everyone. Having a boardroom made up of individuals from the same background is a blinkered view of today's world and leads to a lack of diversity and creativity. Everybody should have the opportunity to thrive and to do what they want to do without restriction, without fear.

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Peak's safeguarding team



Clive Pauling
Safeguarding Lead
clive@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk
07837 712 510



Tina Shaw
Safeguarding Deputy
tina@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk
07377 414 386

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