

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | May 2022 | Issue 19



## Introduction

Welcome to the May edition of safeguarding news. Summer is here even the weather has been picking up lately! Plus the long jubilee weekend is just round the corner. Whilst covid is still around, life is pretty normal now and I hope like me you have plenty of things to look forward to over the summer months, whether it be holiday plans or festivals.

There have been some disturbing reports in the media this month about the rise in reports of young people abusing other young people, and increased calls about harmful sexual behaviour to the NSPCC. Of extreme concern are the comments about sexual harassment being 'normalised' and there are calls for schools to increase education in sexual abuse and harassment. [Rise in reports of children abusing other children - BBC News](#)

Whilst at Peak apprentices are clearly not at school and are in an education and working environment these changes in behaviours and 'normalising' undoubtedly continue post school and into adulthood.

You may have seen stories in the news this month surrounding Britney Spears. Having been released from her conservatorship at the end of last year she has photo dumped several nude images of herself on Instagram. According to reports she says that it was partly a retaliation to how her father made her feel ugly as a child. Several of her fans supported her actions but what do you think? Is there an argument again that publishing such photos on social media increases safeguarding risks and makes her and others who do the same more vulnerable, and going back to the original story does this behaviour just add to the 'normalising' argument?



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 – Keeping yourselves safe at festivals this year

Article 2 – Pride @50

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## Article 1 - Keeping yourself and others safe this festival season

As the festival season begins many of us will be looking forward to kicking back and relaxing at a festival, maybe even camping a night or two. As you start to relax you will probably become less inhibited than in everyday life, but don't let this make you more vulnerable than you would in normal life.

One of the areas of concern is sexual violence. This can happen to anyone, whatever gender they relate to. This year over one hundred festivals have committed to tackling sexual violence at their festivals. Many women at festivals under 40, around 50%, have said that they have experienced some form of sexual harassment, from inappropriate touching to much more violent crimes. Making sure you keep relationships healthy and setting the boundaries will help to keep you safe. The charter of best practice that these festivals in the UK have signed up to, states that all allegations of sexual assault, violence and harassment will be taken seriously, acted on promptly and investigated. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case in the past. They have agreed to make sure that victims feel as if they are listened to and taken seriously.



As in normal life illegal recreational drugs are just that, illegal. Festivals for many years have taken a harden stance about the prevention of drugs coming on to the sites, some using sniffer dogs before you are allowed to enter the festival. However, there will be always someone who will manage to smuggle some in. Taking drugs make may make you less inhibited but that could make you more vulnerable to becoming a victim of a crime or getting into an accident.

Not everyone is at a festival for the music, some people will want your valuables, and some just want to make trouble. There are a few sensible things you can do to make yourself less attractive to the would-be criminal.

- Do not take more than you will need onto the site. Keep electronics and other valuables to a minimum.
- Always keep your valuables on you, in a money belt or bum-bag, so it is hard to be snatched
- Many festivals are cashless. Check out to see if yours is. If you do need cash don't carry lots with you but use the onsite cash machines available.
- Never leave drinks unattended or accept drinks off a stranger. This will prevent the possibility of being spiked.
- Being aware of your environment and those around you will help to keep you safe.

If you are lucky enough to be going to a festival then have a wonderful time, enjoy the music and take care.

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61460338](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61460338)

[www.festivalsafe.com](http://www.festivalsafe.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhvbt39/articles/zfn7vk7](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhvbt39/articles/zfn7vk7)

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## Article 2 – Pride @ 50

This coming month, June, marks Pride month as well as LGBTQ+ history month which celebrates acceptance, inclusivity, and equality for everyone. June is used as the month as it was on June 28<sup>th</sup> in 1968 that the Stonewall Inn in Lower Manhattan, a gay bar, was raided by police and a riot followed as patrons of other gay and lesbian bars joined in. Two years later, to mark the anniversary the first Gay Rights march took place in Los Angeles.

How does this apply in the workplace? All good employers and training providers understand that everyone should feel valued, safe, and respected whoever they are. For this to happen we all have a responsibility. No one is perfect, we all have those personality traits that someone else might not like but take the time to get to know the person and value those parts of them that you do like. They may be super organised or great at making a cuppa. We all have that one good thing.



All the areas in which Peak have a centre are holding a Pride event, from the smaller MaccPride to the larger Pride Liverpool. These are celebrations of long and hard fought for rights which historically have been denied to LGBTQ+ people and the party, carnival atmosphere is intentional! Stonewall, a charity set up to fight for LGBTQ+ rights have been at the forefront of these campaigns for change and recognition. If you need any help or support around issues of sexuality, then the links below should be a good place to ask.

[www.supportline.org.uk/problems/sexuality](http://www.supportline.org.uk/problems/sexuality)

[www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

[www.lgbthealth.org.uk](http://www.lgbthealth.org.uk)

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## Other contacts:

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| Samaritans  | Phone: 116 123<br>Website: <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>                |
| MIND (Mental Health)  | Phone: 0300 123 3393<br>Text: 86463<br>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>                |