

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | October 2021 | Issue 13



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 -
Facebook whistle-blower

Article 2 – 3 dads walking

Introduction

Welcome to this latest edition of Safeguarding news. I am sure most, if not all of you would have seen or heard the concerning stories in the news about needle and drink spiking. Seemingly there is potential misinformation out on social media about some of the emerging stories, but reported instances are most definitely on the increase and cases are currently being investigated by various police forces across the country. Whether the increase is partly due to the return of university social life and people re-emerging back into social activity after lockdown or whatever the reason there are some sensible things you can do to keep yourself and your friends safe on a night out.

- Don't leave drinks unattended
- Don't accept drinks from people you don't know

If you suspect a friend or someone you are with has been subject to 'spiking':

- Stay with them and keep talking to them
- Call an ambulance if their condition deteriorates
- Don't let them go home on their own
- Don't let them leave the venue with someone you don't know or trust
- Try to prevent them drinking more alcohol as this could lead to more serious problems
- Encourage them to get urine and blood tests within 72 hours
- Report to the Police

The following articles are well worth reading providing background and safety tips

[Injection spiking: How likely is it? - BBC News](#)
[Spiking – top tips to stay safe | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](#)

Elsewhere in this edition we have an article on the recent whistleblowing of Facebook and again warnings of the negative aspects of social media and an article raising awareness of suicide in young people brought to the foreground in October by 3 dads walking.

As always stay safe!

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | October 2021

Article 1 – Facebook whistle-blower

I wonder how many of you have been following the news story about Facebook and the hearing first in the senate, and more recently to UK politicians in which an ex-employee of Facebook has blown the whistle on what she believes to be Facebook's priority of profit over social responsibility.

"The damage to self-interest and self-worth inflicted by Facebook today will haunt a generation," Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal said.

"Big Tech now faces the Big Tobacco jaw-dropping moment of truth," he added, a reference to how tobacco firms hid the harmful effects of their products.

The accusations of Frances Haugen include that Facebook harms children's mental health and causes divisions in society.



We have spoken before about the impact of social media. You only have to look at local Facebook sites to see the animosity a 'keyboard warrior' can cause and how it really does create divisions, then scale this up across the country and across the world. We should be mindful of what we choose to post on social media and the impact it can have on others. Just look at the horrific comments made after the England match against Italy in the Euro's. It is too easy for people to bully and incite hatred and racist comments without it appears much in the way of repercussion. Earlier in September the racist troll who used social media to attack England's Bukayo Saka apologised for sending the racist emoji, despite being reported the account was online for 6 weeks after the match and was one of 79 Instagram accounts that remained online despite being reported.

The article on this link reports on some of the evidence provided to the Senate and is worth a read: [Facebook harms children and weakens democracy: ex-employee - BBC News](#)

The article on this link is more recent and reports on the evidence supplied to UK politicians: [Facebook whistle-blower Frances Haugen calls for urgent external regulation | Facebook | The Guardian](#)

Social Media has a social responsibility and a safeguarding responsibility. At Peak, we do as much as we can to highlight some of the dangers social media can present when its services are abused. Make sure you exercise control over your use.

The articles and stories do also raise a couple of other learning points as well for the AAT qualification. Whistleblowing for example and how that sits with our ethical principle of confidentiality. This is definitely an example of public interest. Also, the articles refer to the potential lack of challenge to Mark Zuckerberg. This is an area called corporate governance where recommendation and best practice is that large corporations should have sufficient challenge in place at the top of the organisation. So, we shouldn't have a situation where a powerful CEO can make decisions unchallenged, after all they could then pursue their own self-interest rather than the good of the company and its shareholders and investors. There should be accountability at the board level with the control of having an independent knowledgeable board of directors who can hold the executive directors to account and challenge their decisions. This area really lends itself to the systems and controls part of the level 4 synoptic.

Article 2 – 3 Dads Walking

I was recently watching the news and have seen it advertised on social media, the story of 3 dads whose daughters all committed suicide. To try to highlight their shared experiences, they embarked on a cross country walk to raise money and awareness of suicide in young people. I have included the link below to their webpage which has the background story of each of the dads and their daughters.

[3 Dads Walking](#) the page has links through to the organisation **Papyrus**. Papyrus exists to provide help, support, and advice in helping to reduce the horrifying statistic that suicide is the biggest killer of young people under the age of 35. Whilst watching the interview with the 3 dads their overriding message was that they wanted everyone to know that there's nothing wrong with talking and especially talking about feelings. There is always support available to anyone who needs it – **Don't suffer in silence**. We are always at the end of the phone if you need to talk.



Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | October 2021



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
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)