



PROSPECT TRAINING SERVICES

Safeguarding & Prevent for Parents and Carers



In this issue:

- Important news
- What's new?
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Prevent
- Educate Against Hate
- Case study
- Useful support agencies

I am pleased to bring you the Spring edition of the PTS Safeguarding & Prevent Newsletter for Parents and Carers.

At last, the lighter evenings and warmer weather are upon us! This will hopefully mean that our young people will be able to enjoy more time outside, away from their screens.

Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 13th to 19th May, and this year's theme is **movement**. PTS have activities planned for this week, which will encourage our learners to take part in physical activity, so they can appreciate how good this is for their wellbeing; find out more below.

Kate Whereat

Safeguarding & Learner Support Manager
(Prevent & CIC Lead)

Important news

Prohibited items and PTS search policy and process

PTS wish to offer every learner a safe and secure environment where they can enjoy their learning free from the risk of harm. For this reason, we have a zero-tolerance approach to the carrying of weapons, drugs or other prohibited items (please see the list below):

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs, legal highs and/or non-prescribed medication
- Fireworks
- Stolen items
- Pornographic or indecent images (this includes any electronic devices that contain such images)
- Any item that a member of staff suspects has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence or cause harm to others

As parents/carers, we request your support with this. We ask that you ensure your young person is aware of this policy and that you support them to make safe choices.

If we have reason to suspect that a learner is carrying a prohibited item, we will carry out a search (with the consent of the learner). If any prohibited items are found, the items will be confiscated and (where appropriate), the police will be informed. We do not need parental consent to carry out the search but records of the search will be kept, and for those under 18, parents/carers will be informed following the search. The search will be carried out by a designated member of staff, who will respect the learner's dignity and privacy throughout. The designated staff have undertaken training to enable them to conduct a lawful and safe search.

A copy of the search policy and process can be found on our website and can be requested from a member of the safeguarding team at any time.

If a parent/carer has any concerns or questions relating to this, they can contact the safeguarding manager, Kate Whereat at 01452 300255 or katew@ptsyouth.co.uk



What's new?

Online abuse and blackmail

Worryingly, there has been an increase in cases of young people being coerced into sharing images online and then being blackmailed for money by the perpetrators. This can all start from a simple friend request where the perpetrator will pose as a similar age. They will then build a friendship and invite the young person to share images or take part in a live streaming session. The perpetrator will then use these images to blackmail the young person, often making threats to share the images with the victim's contact list unless they pay money to them. This is being carried out by organised crime gangs and is widespread. The victim can feel trapped and not know who to turn to and can be exploited further if they do not speak out.

Online abuse is never the victim's fault, it is always the fault of the offender. Young people who have experienced this need you to listen, understand and support them. These crimes should always be reported.

For more support and advice in this area, please visit the following website: thinkuknow.co.uk

Our safeguarding team are also here to talk through and advise on any worries you have; you can call 01452 300255 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team or email katew@ptsyouth.co.uk



Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week 2024 will take place from 13th to 19th May, on the theme of "Movement: moving more for our mental health".

Throughout this week, we will be hosting a daily learner and staff walk. This will take us down to our local canal to experience the outdoors and to allow our learners the chance to walk and chat and appreciate just how good 'movement' can make you feel. Please encourage your young person to take part.

Thursday 16th May is 'Wear it Green Day' and we ask that all learners and staff wear a splash of green to raise awareness of the Mental Health Foundation and the amazing work they do. We will also be asking for voluntary donations to this charity. To find out more you can visit their website below:

[Mental Health Awareness Week](#)



Prevent Duty

Prevent

What is the Prevent Strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and many other ideologies.

Current Threat Level

Do you know what the UK Threat Level is? Just how likely is a terrorist attack?

The current UK Threat Level is: Substantial – an attack is likely.

You can check this yourself on [MI5's website](#).



Educate against hate – Useful resources

At PTS, we offer a wide curriculum of enrichment, and we aim to educate our young people on everyday issues and topics. We highly recommend Educate Against Hate, which is a useful website that offers a range of resources to help safeguard our young people and support them to become more resilient. As parents/carers, you have a role to play in this. Let's work together to help our young people develop into citizens we can be proud of. Please take the time to view the website and the helpful information they have provided for parents/carers:

- [Educate Against Hate](#)
- [Parents' Booklet](#)

Please remember that Prevent is there to support people before things go too far. If you genuinely believe your young person is involved in something that they cannot find a way out of, reporting it will get them the help they need.



Case study

In each newsletter, we bring you an example of how we have supported our learners. These are real life learners so we have changed their initial in order to remain anonymous and protect confidentiality.

J enrolled on our Study Programme with a focus mainly on work experience and support to progress into paid employment. When J enrolled, we were made aware that she had moved from Mum's care to live with her Dad and that her family life was very unsettled. As J became more comfortable with the staff at PTS, she began to open up. She disclosed to her learning support worker, Helen, that she had been receiving support from Young Gloucestershire for mental health concerns and that she was a self-harmer, although she had not done this in a while. Helen reassured J and informed her that as part of our safeguarding procedures, she would need to log this on our Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS). Helen explained that this would only be fed back to the safeguarding manager and where possible her confidentiality would always be respected, the only time this would not be the case would be if we felt that J was at risk.

J's attendance was patchy, but her Dad kept in regular contact, which was key to us being able to offer support and space for J. Then one morning before classes, Dad called the centre to let us know that J was in hospital following a serious self-harm incident. We offered our support and awaited further information from Dad. Our safeguarding team also took the time to support her peers in class, as they had heard about this, and were struggling with their emotions. Our safeguarding team all attend regular training in key areas, and self-harm awareness training is an important part of their training schedule.

J was discharged from the hospital a few days later, she was placed on a Child in Need Plan, a core group of support was formed around her, and a safety plan was put in place. Our safeguarding team worked with the other professionals to ensure specialist support was put in place for J, there was also support offered to J's family as this was a worrying time for them. With careful consideration and planning, J was able to return to her classes, she was provided with a safe space to go to if she felt overwhelmed and she had Helen as her key worker, whom she could talk to at any time. J attended regular counselling sessions, which sometimes took place in the centre, where we were able to provide a safe and confidential space for these to take place. As time went on, with all the support around her J felt ready to attend a work experience placement, with J's consent, appropriate information regarding J's mental health was shared with the employer to ensure that they could keep J safe. J did so well on placement that they offered her a weekend job, J was absolutely buzzing, her low mood started to improve, and she had also started to attend family therapy with Mum and Dad both present, this was a huge step for the family. J completed her programme with us and started a part-time job with her work experience employer, she still has counselling support in place, but she has become more resilient, and her self-harming has reduced significantly.

If your young person or your family are facing any difficulties, it is always useful for us to know, so we can offer our support. Please contact katew@ptsyouth.co.uk or **0452 300 255** to discuss this in more detail.

Useful support agencies



Teens in Crisis: Counselling Service in Glos

[Tic+ – Counselling services in Gloucestershire](http://ticplus.org.uk) (ticplus.org.uk)
01594 372 777



Young Gloucestershire: Youth Organisation Glos

[Young Gloucestershire - Wellbeing](http://youngglos.org.uk) (youngglos.org.uk)
01452 501 008



YST: Youth Support Team Glos

[We are the Gloucestershire Youth Support Team](#)



Family Lives: Support for the family

[Parenting and Family Support - Family Lives \(Parentline Plus\) | Family Lives](#)
0808 800 2222



Kooth: Online mental health support for 11-18 year olds

[Home - Kooth](#)



Childline: telephone and online support for young people

[Childline | Childline](#)
0800 1111



Gloucestershire County Council: Early Help Service

[Targeted support](#)

The PTS safeguarding team can refer you to a wide range of external agencies, so if you would like our help, please contact us katew@ptsyouth.co.uk or 01452 300 255.

Follow us on social media for more updates.

