

SAFECHOICE

Keeping you up to date with safeguarding news and tips

Spring 2021

Our aim at GP Strategies is to provide and maintain an environment where young people, adults at risk and all learners regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or religion, feel secure, safe are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.

Safeguarding training

Have you signed up for our FREE online safeguarding training sessions? Courses available via Zoom include:

- Early Years Safeguarding level 2/3
- Children's Residential Safeguarding level 2/3
- Adult Social Care Safeguarding level 2/3

Please contact your Skills Coach to book on the next session.

Our dedicated safeguarding support line

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact our dedicated safeguarding support line:

T: 0330 0183 531 (available 24/7)

E: safeguardingreporting@gpstrategies.com

W: www.gpstl-apprenticeships.co.uk/safeguarding

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is protection from abuse, maltreatment, maintaining good general health, and mental wellbeing, and most importantly responding to concerns by taking action and reporting concerns. You all have the right to feel safe where you learn and work. Other people **should not** hurt or abuse you in any way or threaten to hurt or abuse you.

Why do we need to safeguard?

We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection of those around us, and during the Covid-19 crisis, there has been additional pressures on families and workers. Abuse can take many different forms and we all have a duty of care that extends to ensure that we understand the signs of abuse, and how we raise concerns.

Lockdown roadmap and dealing with uncertainty

As lockdown restrictions start to ease across the country, and our vaccination roll out hits a record high, many of us are reuniting with our friends and families after months apart. However, fear and anxiety are common emotional responses any of us will be feeling and safeguarding vulnerable adults and children from abuse and neglect must remain a priority as things start to resume.

Be vigilant for the signs of abuse

- Physical injuries
- Self-harm
- Changes to eating habits
- Changes to social habits
- Struggling to cope with emotions
- Changes in mood

What can I do if I'm worried about a child?

If you are worried about a child, you should report this to a senior person onsite, or to your GP Strategies safeguarding contact who will inform the designated lead.

What can I do if I'm worried about an adult?

We have a responsibility to safeguard adults who are care and support needs, are experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect and are unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs.

Useful contacts

GP Strategies

T: 0330 0183 531 (available 24/7)
E: safeguardingreporting@gpstrategies.com

ChildLine

T: 0800 1111 (free) - the ChildLine number won't show up on your phone bill if you call from a landline or from most mobile networks

Action on Elder Abuse

T: 0808 808 8141

Action Fraud (Financial):

T: 0300 123 2040

Mental health

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown has severely impacted on many young people and vulnerable adult's mental health. Please remember, no one has to face a mental health problem alone. If you need to speak to someone, please contact:

Mind Infoline

T: 0300 123 3393 (9am-6pm Mon-Fri) - for confidential mental health information services

Mental Health Foundation

W: www.mentalhealth.org.uk - offers a range of free guidance and advice

Samaritans

T: 116 123 - providing confidential, non-judgemental emotional support

Key dates coming up

Child Safety Week – 1st to 6th June

Child Safety Week is an annual campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) which aims to raise awareness of the risks of child accidents. Thousands of conversations and activities around child safety are planned across the UK during the week-long event. [Find out more...](#)

Stop Cyberbullying Day – 18th June

Annually, every third Friday in June, Stop Cyberbullying Day encourages people around the world to show their commitment toward a truly inclusive and diverse online environment for all – without fear of personal threats, harassment or abuse. Users of social media can include the hashtag **#STOPCYBERBULLYINGDAY** to show their support. [Find out more...](#)

Learning Disability Week – 15th to 20th June

Learning Disability Week is a great way to raise the awareness of learning disability across the UK. The theme of the week is the importance of friendships during lockdown. We know that people with a learning disability already experience high levels of loneliness and social isolation and that this will only have been made worse by the lockdown. [Find out more...](#)

Sharing confidential information

If you wish to share information with GP Strategies staff members, and the staff member feels that what you tell them puts you or any other young person at risk of harm; they will have to pass it on to the designated person who may have to take it further to support you or others and keep everyone safe. Please be assured that they will only tell those who need to know.

If you have any questions or concerns related to safeguarding, please contact our support line on **0330 0183 531** or email safeguardingreporting@gpstrategies.com



GP Strategies – committed to equality and valuing diversity



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