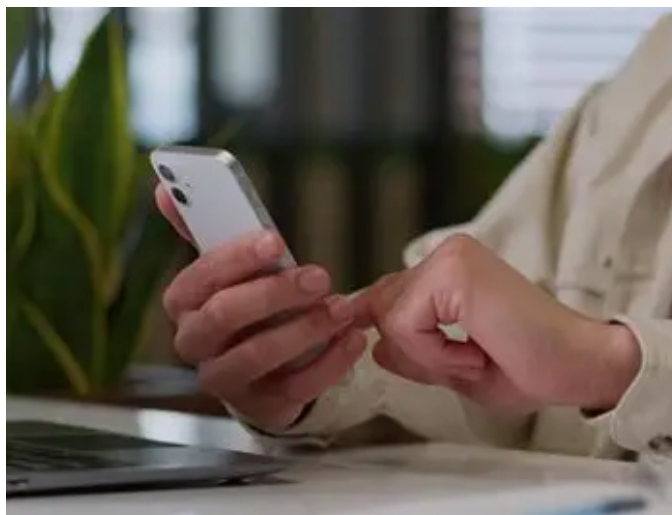




SAFEGUARDING

OUR BI-MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 2026 • CURRENT RISKS & GUIDANCE



As we move into the summer months, safeguarding remains a key priority across all learning environments.

This time of year can bring added pressures for learners and staff alike, including increased workloads, assessments, and personal challenges. At the same time, safeguarding risks continue to evolve, particularly in relation to online influences, wellbeing, and early identification of concerns.

This edition highlights current themes and provides practical guidance to support staff, learners, and employers in recognising and responding to safeguarding risks effectively.

HARMFUL ONLINE INFLUENCES

Online spaces continue to shape behaviours, attitudes, and perceptions – particularly for young people and vulnerable adults.

While social media can be a positive tool for connection and learning, it can also expose individuals to harmful or misleading content.

Emerging Concerns

- Influencers promoting harmful ideologies, including misogyny or extreme views
- “Get rich quick” content linked to scams or criminal exploitation
- Unrealistic body image and lifestyle pressures
- Normalisation of risk-taking or harmful behaviour through viral trends

Algorithms can reinforce this content, meaning individuals may be repeatedly exposed without actively seeking it.

Safeguarding Risks

- Desensitisation to harmful or abusive behaviours
- Increased vulnerability to grooming or exploitation

SAFEGUARDING LEADS



ALISON LAW
Operations Director



ROBERT WRIGHT
Head of Apprenticeships

You can contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads on:



safe-guarding@steadfasttraining.co.uk



01775 513050

- Radicalisation through repeated exposure to extreme content
- Pressure to engage in unsafe or illegal activity

How to Respond

- Encourage open conversations about online content and influences
- Promote critical thinking and digital awareness
- Reinforce safe online behaviours and reporting concerns
- Share any safeguarding concerns with the **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)**



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK (11th-17th May)

Mental health and wellbeing remain an important part of safeguarding.

Mental Health Awareness Week provides an opportunity to reinforce the importance of early support and open conversations.

Poor mental health can increase vulnerability, making individuals more susceptible to exploitation, isolation, or disengagement.

KEY MESSAGE

Small, consistent actions – such as checking in, listening, and creating a supportive environment - can make a significant difference.

If concerns arise, they should always be shared appropriately. Safeguarding is about acting early, not waiting for certainty.



SAFEGUARDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Not all safeguarding concerns are immediately obvious. In many cases, early warning signs can be subtle or easily overlooked.

Scenario

A learner who was previously engaged begins missing sessions, avoids participation, and appears withdrawn. When asked, they state they are “just tired” and do not wish to discuss further.

What Could This Indicate?

- Mental health or wellbeing concerns
- Online or offline exploitation
- Personal or family difficulties
- Loss of confidence or increased anxiety

What Should Staff Do?

- Approach with sensitivity and without judgement
- Provide opportunities for the learner to talk
- Record and monitor any changes or patterns
- Share concerns with the safeguarding team if unsure

Early action can prevent concerns from escalating.

STRESS & WELLBEING: SUPPORTING LEARNERS

Periods of increased pressure such as assessments, deadlines, or personal challenges – can impact wellbeing and behaviour.

Signs of Stress

- Irritability or changes in mood
- Difficulty concentrating
- Withdrawal from activities or peers
- Increased absence or disengagement

How to Support

- Encourage open and supportive conversations
- Promote realistic expectations and manageable workloads
- Signpost to appropriate support services
- Maintain regular check-ins with learners

Supporting wellbeing is a key part of safeguarding and helps reduce the risk of longer-term concerns.



LOW-LEVEL CONCERNS: WHY THEY MATTER

Safeguarding is not always about identifying immediate risk. Low-level concerns can often be the first indication that something is wrong.

Examples of Low-Level Concerns

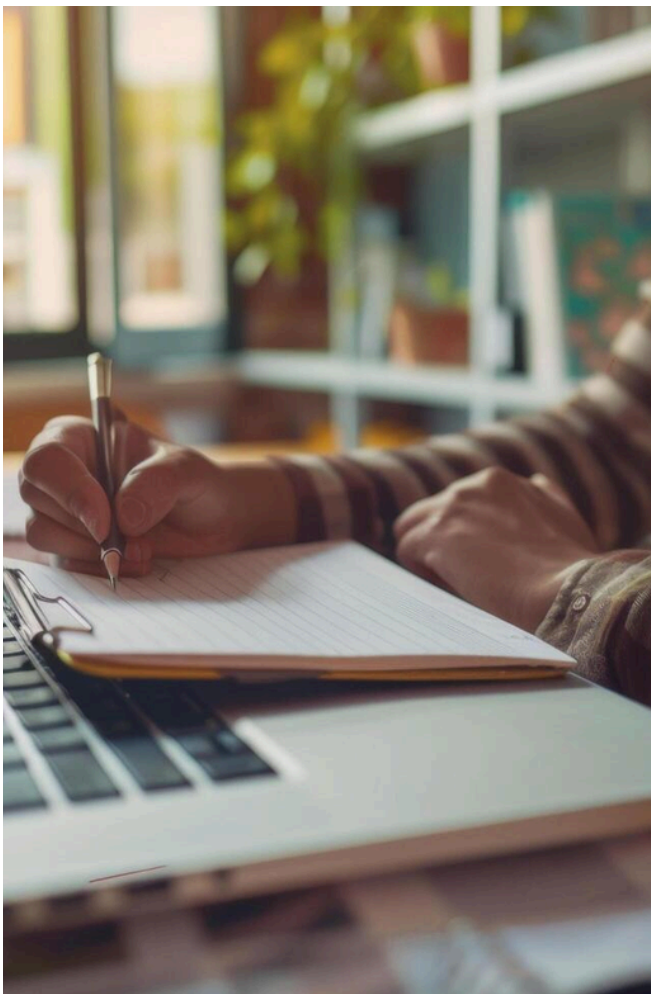
- Changes in behaviour or mood
- Reduced engagement or attendance
- Changes in appearance or self-care
- Increased lateness or withdrawal

Individually, these may not appear significant. However, when viewed over time, they can highlight emerging risks.

Key Considerations

- Patterns are often more important than one-off incidents
- Recording concerns helps build a clearer picture
- Sharing information early supports timely intervention

If unsure – always share the concern. It is better to act early than to miss an opportunity to provide support.



FURTHER SUPPORT & INFORMATION

UK Safer Internet Centre

Guidance on online safety, cyberbullying, and reporting harmful content.

NSPCC Helpline

Support for concerns about children or families:
0808 8005000

Childline

Support for children and young people:
0800 1111

CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection)

Report online sexual abuse or grooming.

Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline

For concerns around forced labour, trafficking or exploitation:
0800 0121700

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

24/7 confidential support:
0808 2000247

Samaritans

Mental health & crisis support:
116 123

ICO – Information Sharing Guidance

Support for safe, lawful sharing of safeguarding information.

9 PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

PREVENT DUTY

The Prevent Duty is part of the government strategy to reduce the risk of Extremism, Terrorism and Radicalisation.

View our Prevent Leaflet

Report possible terrorist activity online If you are concerned about someone or see anything suspicious call the local police or the police anti-terrorist hotline on **0800 789321**.

BRITISH VALUES

British Values are defined as:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you wish to raise an issue of safeguarding for a learner or individual related to Steadfast Training Ltd in any way, please contact...

Steadfast Training's Safeguarding Team

Call: **01775 513050**

Email: safe-guarding@steadfasttraining.co.uk

[Report a Safeguarding Issue](#)



For more information on anything covered in the newsletter, feedback or ideas for the next issue, please contact us on marketing@steadfasttraining.co.uk.