



SAFEGUARDING & PREVENT

OUR BI-MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2026 • SUMMER RISKS & STAYING SAFE



COUNTY LINES & EXPLOITATION OVER SUMMER

County lines refers to criminal networks that use children and vulnerable adults to transport and sell drugs across the country. Summer is a particularly high-risk period, with young people out of education, away from the protective relationships of school or college and often with more unsupervised time.

Why Summer Increases the Risk

- Less contact with trainers, tutors and managers who notice changes.
- More time spent in public spaces, parks or online, where recruiters operate.
- Financial pressure on families, making offers of "easy money" more appealing.
- Increased boredom or isolation, particularly for those without holiday activities.

Warning Signs to Look Out For

- Unexplained gifts, money, new phones or clothing.
- Staying out late or overnight without explanation.

STAYING VIGILANT

Summer brings a change in routine for learners, staff and families. Reduced structure, increased free time and less regular contact with trusted adults can all increase vulnerability, particularly for young people and those already at risk.

This edition focuses on two of the most significant summer safeguarding risks: county lines exploitation and travel safety. Both are areas where awareness and early action can make a real difference.

- Becoming secretive about their phone or contacts.
- Withdrawal from family, friends or usual activities.
- Unexplained injuries or appearing fearful.

What Staff Should Do

- Be alert when learners return after summer, note any changes in behaviour or appearance.
- Avoid direct questioning; use open, supportive conversations.
- If you have a concern, share it with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), you do not need to be certain.
- Record observations carefully, even if they seem minor.

Exploitation is rarely obvious. Trust your instincts and share concerns early.

IMPORTANT INFO



If you're concerned about a loved one or yourself please contact one of the helplines and support groups on [page 3](#).

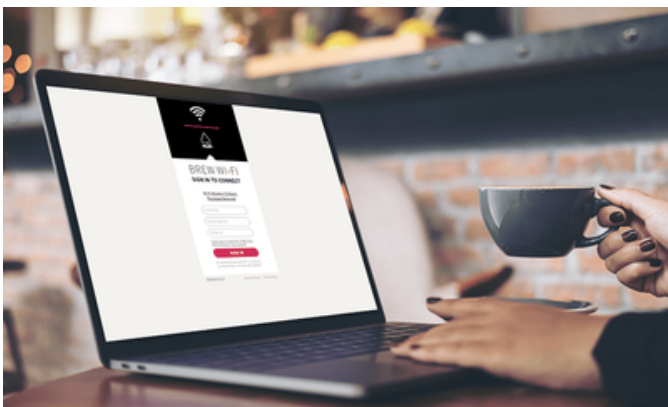


HOLIDAY & TRAVEL SAFETY

For many learners and families, summer means travel, whether that's a UK day trip or a holiday abroad. While this is a positive time, it also brings safeguarding considerations that are easy to overlook.

Online Safety While Travelling

- Public Wi-Fi in hotels, airports and cafés can expose personal data, remind learners to avoid sharing sensitive information on unsecured networks.
- Increased screen time over summer can lead to greater exposure to harmful content or online contact.
- Sharing holiday plans or locations on social media in real time can create risks, particularly for young people.



Travel & Exploitation Risks

Some individuals face specific risks when travelling, including:

- Trafficking and exploitation, particularly at transport hubs.
- Individuals being taken abroad without full consent or understanding.
- Increased vulnerability for those travelling alone or in unfamiliar environments.

Supporting Learners Who May Be at Risk

- Be aware of learners who seem anxious about upcoming travel or returning from trips.
- Look out for signs of distress, confusion or disorientation on return.
- If a learner discloses anything concerning about a trip, listen without judgement and refer to your DSL immediately.

KEY MESSAGE

Summer should be safe and enjoyable for everyone. Staying alert, even during the quieter period, means we are ready to act when it matters.

**Stay alert.
Stay connected.
Act early.**

PREVENT UPDATE

The UK National Terrorism Threat Level remains at **SEVERE**, meaning an attack is likely.

While there is no need for alarm, it is important that all staff remain vigilant and continue embedding Prevent discussions into learner appointments. Prevent is about safeguarding people from radicalisation and ensuring everyone feels safe, supported and able to discuss concerns.

Our Responsibilities

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, please remember to:

- ✓ Embed Safeguarding and Prevent into every learner appointment and ensure discussions are documented.
- ✓ Make learners aware that the current UK Terror Threat Level is SEVERE
- ✓ Stay alert to changes in behaviour, language or engagement that may indicate someone is becoming vulnerable to radicalisation or other harmful influences.
- ✓ Maintain a respectful environment where learners can express their views safely while appropriately challenging harmful or extremist opinions.
- ✓ Ensure all learning materials, online resources and videos used during delivery have been checked and are suitable.
- ✓ Record and report any safeguarding or Prevent concerns promptly using the correct reporting procedures.

UK THREAT LEVEL SYSTEM	
CRITICAL	AN ATTACK IS EXPECTED IMMINENTLY
SEVERE	AN ATTACK IS HIGHLY LIKELY
SUBSTANTIAL	AN ATTACK IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY
MODERATE	AN ATTACK IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT LIKELY
LOW	AN ATTACK IS UNLIKELY

Remember

The current threat level reflects the ongoing risk from individuals and small groups.

Early intervention can make a significant difference. Your role is simply to recognise potential signs and report them through the appropriate safeguarding channels.

Reporting Concerns

If you have any safeguarding or Prevent concerns, please report them immediately.

Steadfast Training Safeguarding Team



01775 513050



safe-guarding@steadfasttraining.co.uk



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.