

SAFEGUARDING & PREVENT NEWSLETTER

January 2024

 safeguarding.educ@serco.com

 [safeguarding team](#)

0121 345 6455



available between 08:30 and 16:30 with option to leave a voice message. In case of immediate danger call 999. For Samaritans call 116 123



Prevent Statistics Release

The Home Office last month released [statistics](#) on the number of individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme from April 2022 to March 2023.

In the year ending 31 March 2023, there were 6,817 referrals to Prevent, a 6% increase in comparison with the previous year (6,406). The education sector made the highest number of referrals (2,684; 39%). Of interest is of the referrals where age of the individual was known (6,796), those aged 15 to 20 again accounted for the largest proportion (2,203; 32%).

TOGETHER FOR A BETTER INTERNET - ever present throughout the UK is the danger of on-line radicalisation. The following [BBC news article](#) talks about an unprecedented 12-fold increase in hateful social media content being referred to specialist police officers since Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October. It is a spike in hate that leaves young Britons increasingly exposed to radicalisation by algorithm.

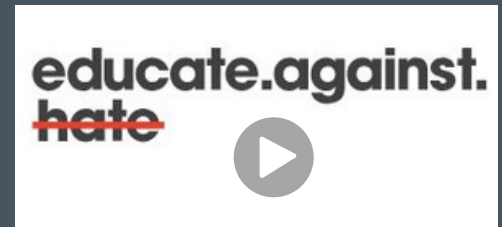
With this in mind, as well as [Safer Internet Day](#) next month, it is useful to highlight the LGFL resource [Going Too Far?](#) This is a practical resource for educators to use, and for learners to pro-actively access, which will help students/learners consider online extremism. It empowers people to:

- recognise examples of extremist behaviour and content online
- understand actions which could be identified as criminal activity
- explore techniques used for persuasion and build resilience through critical thinking
- access support from trusted individuals and organisations

Each section includes:

- starter videos featuring experts or case studies
- scenario-based activities to promote discussion and reflection
- guidance to facilitate discussions in an age-appropriate way and consolidate learning

Click links below for access to the websites.



This month's newsletter focuses on rising costs of living, financial hardship and the threat of homelessness

The rising cost of living affects us all, but the impact is disproportionately felt by those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

We all need a safe place to call home. It's not right that those who are already struggling to find a secure and stable place to live, have to deal with the cost of living crisis too.

The current crisis combined with existing issues such as rising rents, rising heating bills, low wages and a lack of affordable housing has created a perfect storm for people who were already struggling with unrelenting pressures.

With little to no social housing to go around, more and more are living in the private rented sector paying record high rents which is eating up over 30% of income. When coupled with rising costs of household bills and necessities, these factors increase the risk of someone being forced into homelessness or even deeper poverty.

Where to get help

Your council must help you if you are legally homeless or about to become homeless in the next eight weeks.

There are different types of support your council could offer you. For example, they may offer you advice, emergency housing, support to find longer-term housing or help so you can stay in your home. The type of help you can get depends on:

- your eligibility for assistance
- if you're in priority need
- what caused you to become homeless

For more information on eligibility, priority need and how to contact your local council, visit the [.gov website](#) and [Shelter England](#) who also offers advice and links for young people, those that are under threat of domestic abuse, relationship breakdown and help if you are from abroad.

Support available

- [Shelter](#) (homelessness advice)
- [National Debtline](#) - tips on how to manage your money
- [Citizens Advice](#) (on help if struggling to pay bills)

Financial Hardship - if you are suffering severe financial hardship and you are struggling to feed yourself and/or your family, there is help available.

[Citizens Advice](#) website offers key advice on how to get help if you are struggling to pay your bills, for example, gas/electric, rent and council tax.

First and foremost, don't ignore bills or letters about money you owe. Speak to the organisations you owe money to as they may let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments. Each organisation is different so it's important to check what help you could get.

Check to see if you can get extra help or money. You may be able to claim benefits or increase your current benefits if you are:

- struggling to pay for essentials such as food or housing
- sick or disabled
- not working or on a low income
- a carer or responsible for children

If you're thinking about borrowing money to pay your bills, having already exhausted all options to reduce your existing payments with those you owe money to, you should check that the proposed lender is on the register on the [Financial Conduct Authority website](#). If they are not then DO NOT borrow money from them as they are most likely a loan shark! Should you wish to safely report a loan shark then do so [here](#).

If you're finding things difficult your mental health is as important as your physical health so talk to your GP if your money worries are affecting your mental health. You can find other ways to get help with your mental health on the [Mind](#) website.

- [Check what benefits](#) you can get
- [Mind](#) website
- [Stop Loan Sharks](#)
- [Foodbanks near you](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE, TIPS AND ADVICE

Prevent awareness training for Education (DfE):

13th February 2024 (10.30-12 noon) [Online Prevent awareness workshop for staff in the Education sectors](#) This online workshop will equip staff with a clear understanding of these responsibilities as well as learning what the relevant current terrorist & extremist threats are. Attendees will have the chance to explore questions they might have about the Prevent Duty or other issues linked to extremist & terrorism.



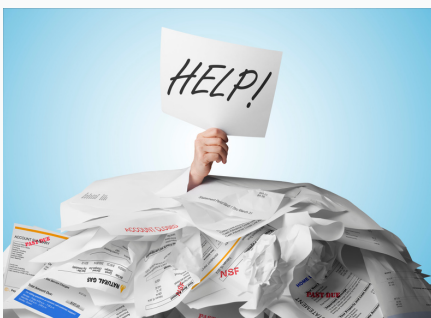
The workshop will be delivered by Sam Slack, the Dept for Education's East Mid's Prevent Coordinator using MS Teams.

Implications of the new On-line Safety Act

Hosted by safeguarding and behavioural specialist Louise Willis-Keeler, the following session will explore the impact of the new Online Safety Bill on safeguarding. In an era dominated by digital connectivity, ensuring a safe online environment in education has become more critical than ever. In this brief session - open to all those working with learners - the implications of new legislation, trends and practical actions you can take in your context will be discussed. They will cover:

- **The Online Safety Act 2023:** Key provisions and requirements set out by the Online Safety Act 2023, and how it directly impacts educational settings.
- **Emerging Trends in Harmful Online Content:** Explore the latest trends and understand their potential impact on the well-being of students and educators.
- **Creating a 'Safe Space for All':** Learn essential questions to ask and answer to develop a secure and inclusive digital environment for your learners.

Click [HERE](#) to book a place for 1 February 2024 (2pm - 2.30pm)



The following organisations will help with debt, legal advice, health, and reporting other crimes. For free, confidential debt advice on money worries from legal lenders visit:

- [Stepchange](#)
- [National debtline](#)
- [Christians against poverty](#)
- [Money Advice Trust](#)
- [Save the student](#)

The following organisations will give you advice on legal issues.

- [Citizen's Advice](#)
- [Citizen's Advice for consumer legal issues](#)
- [Financial Conduct Authority](#)

The following organisations will give you advice on Health And Wellbeing:

- [Mind](#) (for mental health problems)
- [Samaritans](#)
- [GamCare](#) (gambling support)
- [GambleAware](#)
- [Shelter](#)

As always, our safeguarding team is here to help, advise and guide so do reach out if you are struggling.