

# SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS



Issue 9  
September 2025



## In This Issue:

- Introduction
- What's New?
- Prevent
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Case Study
- Useful Support Agencies

Welcome to the Autumn term edition of the PTS Safeguarding and Prevent Newsletter for Parents and Carers. At PTS, ensuring the wellbeing and safety of our learners is vital to help them achieve and make a success of their programme.

As we move into a new academic year, we hope that our learners and their families/carers have been able to enjoy a great summer. We offer a warm welcome to our new learners and welcome back those who are returning for another year at PTS. Adapting to a new environment and schedule can be stressful for some of our learners, if you feel your young person could do with a little extra support, please reach out to our safeguarding team and we will be happy to help.

**Kate Whereat**

Safeguarding Manager (Senior Mental Health, Prevent & CIC Lead)










# WHAT'S NEW?

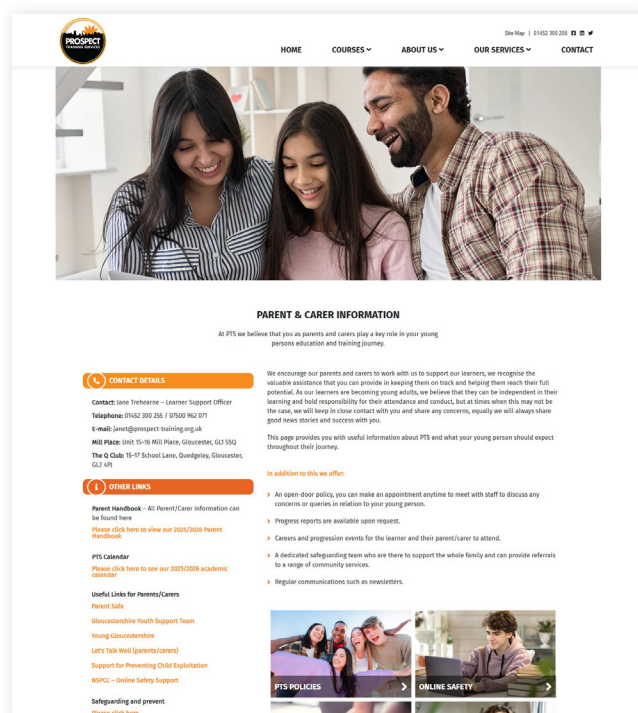


## PTS PARENT AND CARER PAGE

We are pleased to inform you that we have launched our new Parent and Carer Page on the PTS website. You can visit the new page here [Parent and Carers | Prospect Training Services](#)

You will find all the information you will need whilst your young person is a learner at PTS, including:

-  PTS Policies
-  Online Safety
-  Parent Handbook
-  Academic Calendar
-  Useful Links for Parents/Carers
-  Quarterly Newsletter
-  Safeguarding and Prevent Information



Our new Parent/Carer Handbook, can also be requested from our office by calling **01452 300255**.





# ONLINE SAFETY

## Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion - Sextortion

Sextortion is sadly an increasing risk to our learners. This is when an offender connects with a young person online, usually posing as someone the same age and with whom the young person feels they are friends with; they will encourage the young person to share nudes or semi-nudes and will then demand that the young person pays money to stop the images being shared with their friends and family. **This is a form of child abuse.**

The offender will have tricked or coerced the victim and in some cases the images will have been digitally manipulated. It is important to remember that a young person is never to blame if they have been blackmailed online, the reality is it could happen to anyone.

This can be so damaging for a young person, and they can often feel like they have no option other than to pay the money. This is why it is important that you know how to support your young person should this happen.

Our safeguarding team are always here to 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.com**.



**Talk to your young person** – many young people will not understand what sextortion is, and may not know the risks, include this in your conversations with your young person, show an interest in what they do online and do not be judgemental. You can signpost them here [Sextortion or Sexually Coerced Extortion Help & Support](#)



**Review privacy settings** – discuss the importance of using privacy settings with your young person, and educate them on how to block unwanted contact.



**Do not pay the offender** – there is no guarantee that paying the offender will meet their demands, often they will keep asking for more. If you have already paid, stay calm but don't pay anymore, block the offender immediately, but do not delete any messages or content from them.



**Report the image** – sextortion is a crime, so report it immediately. You can find advice and information on how to do this here [Report Remove | Childline](#)

You can also report to the Police on 101 or if there is an immediate risk call 999.



**Reassure and support** – make sure you let the young person know they are not to blame, and that they have done the right thing to ask for your help. This can have a huge impact on a young person's mental health, Young Minds can offer support [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People](#) and it is always useful to inform the PTS Safeguarding Team, if we are aware we can offer support whilst they are in our care.



**SECURITYSERVICE**  
**MI5**

## PREVENT

### What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people 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? And just how likely is a terrorist attack? The current UK Threat Level is: Substantial - an attack is likely.  
[Threat Levels | MI5 - The Security Service](#)

## LOCKDOWN AND PTS SEARCH POLICY

As part of our commitment to keeping our learners safe we are required to have plans in place to respond to security related incidents, these incidents can range from a terrorist threat, to a weapons related threat or if we are made aware of an external threat in our local area.

All PTS youth sites have a tailored lockdown procedure in place; these are designed to keep everyone safe. We appreciate that being placed in lockdown can be scary for our learners and a worrying time for parents/carers, but we would like to reassure you that the plans are devised in line with guidance from the UK Government and our local Police. Each learner will be informed of our lockdown procedure, this will form part of their induction, and we will run regular practice drills throughout the year. We ask that you support this by reminding your young person how important it is that they adhere to the lockdown procedure and take it very seriously. In the event of a lockdown, we will aim to communicate with parents/carers through our head office and in liaison with the Police, whilst we know this will be a worrying time for you, we ask that you do not come to the centre unless instructed to do so, this is for everyone's safety.

As an added safeguarding measure, we have a Search Policy and Process in place, this is to ensure that our learners refrain from bringing any prohibited items on site, including knives and items intended to harm. The learners are informed of this in their induction and made aware that they may be subject to random searches – we see this as a deterrent and very rarely need to use this. We hope it will bring reassurance to our learners and the wider PTS community that PTS is a safe place for all.

If you would like to find out more about this, or any other Prevent concern, please talk to a member of the safeguarding team on **01452 300255** or email [katew@ptsyouth.co.uk](mailto:katew@ptsyouth.co.uk)

# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



## LET'S TALK WELL

Teens in Crisis (tic+) has changed its name. You may be aware of the great counselling service that Teens in Crisis have offered to young people across the county for over 30 years. They have changed their name to Let's Talk Well, they still offer the same amazing support to young people, but have rebranded with a new web address.

[Let's Talk Well in Gloucestershire | Free counselling and support for 9-25 year olds](#)

They offer advice and support to parents and carers too, so if you are worried about your young person's wellbeing or mental health, you are not alone. Please follow the link for more information:

[Parent and carer workshops | Let's Talk Well](#)

If you are concerned about your young person's mental health, our safeguarding team are happy to help. Please feel free to contact Kate Whereat on **01452 300 255** or email **[katew@ptsyouth.com](mailto:katew@ptsyouth.com)**.



Free counselling  
and support for  
**9-25 year olds**

**[www.letstalkwell.org.uk](http://www.letstalkwell.org.uk)**



# PTS Case Study

In each newsletter, we bring you an example of how we have supported our learners. These are real life cases, so we have changed the young person's initial to provide anonymity.

We supported a learner who was a victim of criminal exploitation and modern slavery. S had been attending our ESOL programme, which is a programme to teach English to those for whom English is not their first language. He is a child in care, living in supported housing. S started the course well and his attendance and engagement were very good, but by the end of his first term we started to see a decline in his attendance. We also observed that S had 2 mobile phones with him, which were a constant distraction, he would often get a call and then make excuses to leave the centre. S started to wear expensive clothes and trainers, which were way out of his financial means on a child in care allowance. All the observations that our staff had made were logged on a CPOMS site, which is our Child Protection Online Management System, this is how we log and raise concerns for our learners. As we started to build a worrying picture, we communicated with his social worker and supported housing key workers, who were also seeing a worrying decline in his engagement with them, and there was a regular pattern of him leaving the home very early and not returning by curfew, often being reported as a missing person.

We attended regular professionals' meetings with an aim of understanding what was going on for S, and it soon became apparent that he was working illegally and being exploited to undertake criminal activities. S was treated as a victim rather than an offender, he was referred to the child exploitation team and provided with a worker from Barnardo's, who work with victims of exploitation and modern slavery. In cases like these the aim of the support network is to disrupt the exploitation and help the young person to move away from the influence of their exploiters, this is quite complex work and often the hold that the exploiters have over the victim is so strong that they are in fear for their safety. The work with S is still ongoing, and at the time of him completing his programme, he had started to engage with his support network again, and his missing episodes had become less frequent. His exploiters know that he is being monitored closely, which makes him less of an easy and attractive target to them. S will now have a more realistic chance of progressing with his education and future career.

If your young person or your family are facing difficulties, we are here to offer help and support, please contact Kate Whereat on **01452 300 255** or email [katew@ptsyouth.com](mailto:katew@ptsyouth.com).



# USEFUL SUPPORT AGENCIES



## Let's Talk Well – Counselling Service in Gloucestershire

- [Let's Talk Well in Gloucestershire](#)
- 01594 372 777



## Young Gloucestershire – Youth Organisation Glos

- [Young Gloucestershire - Wellbeing \(youngglos.org.uk\)](#)
- 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 \(Parentline Plus\)](#)
- 0808 800 2222



## Kooth – Online mental health support for 11- 18-year-olds

- [Kooth - Home](#)



## Childline – telephone and online support for young people

- [Childline - Home](#)
- 0800 1111



## Early Help Service

- [Targeted support | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

The PTS safeguarding team can refer to a wide range of external agencies, so if you would like our help, please contact us [katew@ptsyouth.co.uk](mailto:katew@ptsyouth.co.uk) or **01452 300255**.