

LEARNER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

In last month's newsletter we talked about British Values. One of those focused on in this edition, is Mutual Respect. One of the ways mentioned to show this respect is by "Embracing Diversity".



Within Achieving Excellence UK Ltd we have colleagues from different cultures, generations, diverse religions, and even 2 owners who are from the North of England! (Shocking as that may be to those of you reading this in London). It was pointed out by one of our colleagues that if we didn't work together, we may never have had association with each other at all.

Despite these differences we spent 2 days, at the beginning of July, with all of our internal staff for training and team bonding. Everyone travelled to Greater Manchester where we had training and discussions about the "Learner's Journey". That's right, your journey! And over the coming weeks and months we will be implementing ideas to improve that for you.

We then spent time in the Peak District together, visiting picturesque Castleton and the surrounding areas. We went deep underground into Speedwell Cavern where we saw the extreme working conditions of lead miners many years ago. It makes you very grateful for the protection provided to us all as workers today.

We then enjoyed the natural beauty of Monsal Dale. With amazing views and a refreshing river and waterfall, it was the perfect place for us all to get to know, and gain a greater understanding, of each other and become more unified.

As we braved the chilly water below the waterfall, our differences didn't matter. What mattered was the mutual respect we have for each other and that despite different beliefs, experiences, and ideals we can all enjoy time together.



We hope you can embrace the differences of those you work and associate with, in your daily life and show respect to one another.

Have a great July!

Mike Austin, Director
Achieving Excellence UK Ltd

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PREVENT – RADICALISATION & VULNERABILITY

Anyone can become radicalised, however, young people are more at risk of becoming radicalised due to a number of factors including:

- Low self-esteem
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- Family issues
- Questioning their place in society
- Struggling with a sense of identity

External factors play their part too, such as: community tension, events affecting the country or region where they or their parents are from, or having friends or family who have joined extremist groups. Exposure to one-sided points of view all contribute to the process of radicalisation.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

Radicalisation does not happen suddenly; it is a gradual process which makes it harder for the person who is being radicalised to know what is happening.

<https://youtu.be/NHmOnCRAGvw>

What are the signs?

Radicalisation can be difficult to spot, but signs that could indicate a child is being radicalised include:

- a change in behaviour
- changing their circle of friends
- isolating themselves
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness
- accessing extremist material online
- using extremist or hate terms
- writing or creating artwork promoting violent extremist messages

If you suspect someone is becoming radicalised it is vital that you report this to your local Multi-Agency Safeguarding hub, if you need support with this, please speak to Achieving Excellence safeguarding team.

BRITISH VALUES – RESPECT



British values underpin everything that we do in practice and one of the topics that British Values covered is mutual respect and tolerance.

This means understanding that we all don't share the same beliefs and values. Respecting the values, ideas, and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own on others. Examples are:

- * Embracing diversity
- * Promoting awareness of religion, traditions, cultural heritage, and preferences
- * Tackling stereotyping, labelling, prejudice and discrimination

To do this in practice we can educate others as to what respect means in the workplace, ensure that policies are in place to promote and maintain respect.

What can you do?

Does your workplace embrace a diverse workforce? What are the benefits of a diverse work force?

How do you celebrate your colleagues' religions?

What would you do if there were any instances of discrimination within your workplace?

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SAFEGUARDING – WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING PEOPLE 30TH JULY

The United Nations defines human trafficking as ‘the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.’

This year’s theme puts victims of human trafficking at the centre of the campaign and will highlight the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.

In 2020 the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons presents a global picture of the patterns and flows of trafficking, within this report it summarised that for every 10 victims detected globally, about five were adult women and two were girls and that, although trafficking can happen anywhere, it is more prevalent in North America.

The report also showed that 72% of women or girls who are trafficked are done so for sexual exploitation, whereas with men 66% are used for forced labour.

Human trafficking is illegal in any form and if you think that someone is at risk of being trafficked you should contact your local police or safeguarding team.

Further information:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING – MONKEY POX

Following the Covid – 19 outbreak the mention of another virus can be worrying and as we have heard in the news that Monkey Pox is spreading this has, understandably, caused some people to be worried about another pandemic. However, according to the World Health Organisation *Monkey Pox is not spreading as quickly as Covid-19 did and is not transmitted as quickly between people or causing the same rate of deaths and serious illness.*

What is Monkey Pox?

Monkeypox is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal, or with material contaminated with the virus.

Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.

Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of central and west Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.

An antiviral agent developed for the treatment of smallpox has also been licensed for the treatment of monkeypox.

The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxviral infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980. Monkeypox is less contagious than smallpox and causes less severe illness.

Symptoms of monkeypox:

The invasion period (lasts between 0–5 days) characterized by fever, intense headache, lymphadenopathy (swelling of the lymph nodes), back pain, myalgia (muscle aches) and intense asthenia (lack of energy). Lymphadenopathy is a distinctive feature of monkeypox compared to other diseases that may initially appear similar (chickenpox, measles, smallpox)

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The skin eruption usually begins within 1–3 days of appearance of fever. The rash tends to be more concentrated on the face and extremities rather than on the trunk. It affects the face (in 95% of cases), and palms of the hands and soles of the feet (in 75% of cases).

If you think you have MonkeyPox or have been around someone who has had it then you need to be tested for the virus, you can do this by calling 111 and asking for advice on next steps.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/monkeypox/>

[Monkeypox \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/monkeypox)

HEALTH & WELLBEING: HEATWAVE

What beautiful weather we are having, enabling us to enjoy the freedom the sunshine brings! Enjoy the weather but be mindful of the health and well-being of yourself, and those you care for.

Please be proactive in ensuring:

- You wear light and loose clothing.
- There is good ventilation at work or home.
- Curtains or blinds are shut.
- You take regular breaks.
- You remain hydrated.
- The use of sunscreen and other protection.
- You are aware of signs of dehydration or other effects of heat or sun exposure etc.

For more information click on the links below:

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/.../news/2022/heatwave-safety/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/.../heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/>

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY – DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

In July we celebrate Disability Pride month. This focuses on being proud of who you are and “accepting and honouring each person's uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity”.

There are currently 14.1 million people registered as having a disability within the UK and this does not account for those who have either not registered their disability, or those who do not have a disability that requires registering, such as a learning difficulty or disability.

We have seen a societal shift in acceptance towards those with a disability and how inclusion provides more opportunities for those with a disability to be able to reach their full potential, which is amazing, but there is still work to be done!

Within the Equality Act 2010, the protected characteristics were outlined, and these are illegal to discriminate against, including disability. This means that it is not permitted to be prejudiced against people due to any disability and those with disabilities should be supported to be able to have equal opportunities to those who do not have disabilities.

At Achieving Excellence we believe that our learners deserve the best experience whilst on their apprenticeship. We will adapt our teaching and tailor our programmes to support anyone who has a disability to be able to achieve their qualification in a way that is best for them. If you need additional support please speak to your tutor, or the safeguarding team, and we will do our best to help.



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SAFEGUARDING YOU!

Safeguarding is about preventing or protecting those who may be, or are about to be, abused or neglected physically, verbally, sexually, financially, or emotionally. This can include domestic violence, discriminatory abuse, radicalisation, modern slavery, neglect, or financial abuse, etc. It can be at home, in the workplace, in the community or online. For more information, please speak with your tutor or a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

If you are worried about the way another person is treating you or someone else you can talk to your employer, family, Doctors, local safeguarding teams, or your tutor. You can call, text, or email.

Equally, you can privately contact an apprenticeship Designated Safeguarding Officer at Achieving Excellence UK Ltd via:

safeguarding@achievingexcellenceukltd.com

- Richard Shuttleworth, 07792655931 (Designated Safeguarding Officer)
- Charlotte Parman, 07854887817 (Safeguarding Lead)
- Janice Oliver, 07956288049 (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)
- Rachel Olowoporoku, 07593317212 (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

- Speak to your tutor about the next Maths or English Functional Skills Surgery's
- Work with your employer and tutor to ensure you are planning sufficient off the job teaching and learning, and assessment!
- Ensure you and your employer attend your 12 weekly Learning Reviews!
- Ask your tutor for Information, Advice and Guidance about your education and career!

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP: A REMINDER?

During your induction we introduced you to your apprenticeship, as funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The programmes are designed for individuals who need significant new knowledge and skills within their current job role.

Under our Schemes of Work (including our Curriculum Intent), Achieving Excellence seek to offer high quality teaching and learning experiences!

Central to your apprenticeship is some of the following:

- Working against a set apprenticeship standard assessment plan
- Some apprenticeships are underpinned by diplomas
- You are required to work towards and achieve maths and English at level 1 or 2 if you don't already have them. These should be achieved within the first 3-6 months of your programme
- 20% of your contracted hours are required 'off the job' or away from normal day to day duties to learn, develop and grow your knowledge! This will include training, tutorials and many other activities; internal and external!
- Your programme is only complete once internally and externally verified, then also once you have successfully achieved your End Point Assessment (EPA). Everything you work towards is preparing you for this EPA!
- 12 weekly Learning Reviews are critical to understanding your progress and ensuing actions!

Liaise with your tutor on the above, but we want to assist you working towards "distinction" throughout your programme and as a result of your EPA!

Coming Soon – personal development masterclasses like Managing Staff, Career Advice, and Managing Finances!

Follow us on social media @aeukltd

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