SERCO SKILLS & TRAINING SERVICES
SAFEGUARDING & PREVENT NEWSLETTER

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serco — Impact a better future

✉ 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

Understanding and addressing Cyber Trauma

In an age where digital technology permeates every aspect of our lives, the concept of trauma has expanded beyond physical events to encompass virtual experiences as well. From cyberbullying and online harassment, to exposure to violent or disturbing content, individuals are facing a myriad of challenges in the digital realm that can profoundly impact their mental health.

Being hit by a cyberattack, whether it's a phishing scam, ransomware threat or a computer virus can be a traumatic event, affecting not just your security, but also mental health and wellbeing.

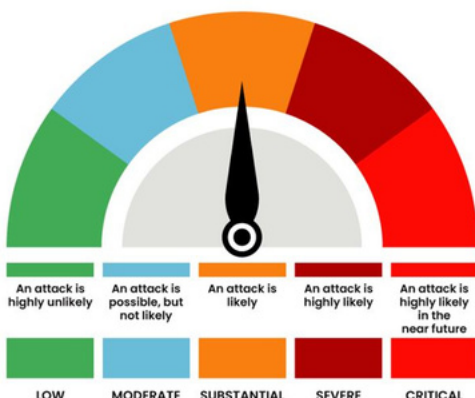Cyber-trauma can manifest as a result of various incidents, including but not limited to:

- Cyberbullying
- Romance fraud
- Online scams
- Online harassment
- Exposure to graphic content
- Digital exploitation
- Online grooming

What is being done about Cyber Trauma?
Efforts to address cyber-trauma require a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, including government, charities, and technology companies. Key strategies include: education and awareness, prevention and intervention, mental health support, digital literacy, and collaboration with technology companies

As our lives become increasingly intertwined with digital technology, the need to address cyber-trauma has never been more pressing. By raising awareness, implementing preventive measures, and providing support services, we can mitigate the negative impact of digital experiences on mental health and create a safer, more inclusive online environment for all.

Free resources available from Avast/Norton: click both icons

avast   norton Genie

The UK National threat level remains as SUBSTANTIAL.
The following MI5 page explains how they decide on the level and the level history over the past few years.

Remain vigilant at all times. Call 999 or the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 to report immediate threat to life or property and report any threats to national security - such as terrorism to MI5 on 0800 111 4645.

An attack is highly unlikely — LOW
An attack is possible, but not likely — MODERATE
An attack is likely — SUBSTANTIAL
An attack is highly likely — SEVERE
An attack is highly likely in the near future — CRITICAL

NO PLACE FOR HATE

Hate crime can and does effect anyone. What is a hate crime?
It is any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility and prejudice towards a person's identity or perceived identity. The following are the five nationally monitored strands:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion/Faith
- Sexual Orientation
- Transgender Identity

Anyone can be affected by hate crime. You don't have to be a member of the group to which the hostility is targeted at. You don't have to be gay to have had homophobic abuse shouted at you. You may not be part of a religion and still have someone target you because they think you are.

Hate crimes can have a devastating impact on the victim and their loved ones. Some hate crimes start as minor incidents, which can escalate into more serious and frequent offences. Where victims suffer a series of such incidents, the cumulative effect can destroy their lives through emotional damage and long-term trauma. People are made to feel like they don't belong and will often change their lifestyles or question their identities to try and avoid further incidents.

All hate crimes can be reported to the police - you can call the police on 999 if you or someone else are in immediate danger, or you can call 101 in a non-emergency.

You can also anonymously report a hate crime to Crimestoppers, visit a local police station, or report via Stop Hate UK.

EDUCATE AGAINST HATE CALENDAR

APR
Stephen Lawrence Day - founded after Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old boy from London was murdered in an unprovoked racist attack on 22nd April 1993.
Stephen Lawrence Day aims to bring people, communities and organisations together to not only honour Stephen, but also to stand up to the discrimination that occurs in daily life.

The Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation work in classrooms, encouraging young people to strive for greatness despite barriers they may face; support and create new connections within communities; and help to provide marginalised young people with access to career opportunities across a range of sectors and industries. Take the opportunity to discuss hate crime and discrimination with your learners, and teach them about our British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs.

MAY
On 22nd May 2017, Islamist extremist Salman Abedi carried out an attack at the Manchester Arena, following an Ariana Grande concert. As a result of the bombing, 22 people lost their lives, over 100 were injured, and there was extensive damage to the building itself. 2024 marks 7 years since the attack. Click the May calendar for information on starting conversations with learners using 'Let's Discuss: Islamist Extremism' resource which aims to provide support to teachers in starting dialogue in the classroom around Islamist extremism and the process of radicalisation.

NEW DEFINITION OF EXTREMISM

Last month, government announced a new definition of extremism, updated to respond to increased extremist threat since the October 7 terrorist attacks in Israel.

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

For full guidance on the new definition, behaviours that could constitute extremism and further context, click the 'Stop Extremism' graphic.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE, TIPS AND ADVICE

Prevent Training - Online Staff Prevent Awareness Training for Education.

The following session covers all of the important issues that staff need to know for Prevent (What is Prevent?, What is radicalisation? Case study example, Common signs of vulnerability & radicalisation, Current threat level & the main risks from terrorism & extremism). The session is suitable for all education sector organisations but is particularly useful for smaller organisations who may struggle to provide a more detailed Prevent input to smaller staff cohorts.

You can use this training for new staff in all education based organisations or for those staff who need a more detailed insight or update.

Wednesday 5 June - 10.30 till 12 noon is a free online prevent awareness session tailored for staff in education (organised by Sam Slack, DFE East Midlands RPEC)

Wednesday 3 July - 10.30 till 12 noon is a free online prevent awareness session tailored for staff in education (organised by Sam Slack, DFE East Midlands RPEC)

Wednesday 25 September - 4pm till 5.30pm is a free online prevent awareness session tailored for staff in education (organised by Sam Slack, DFE East Midlands RPEC)

Tuesday 16 July - 10.30 till 12 noon is a free webinar event for FE Skills providers subject to the Prevent Duty (organised by Sam Slack, DFE East Midlands RPEC)

Tuesday 8 October - 10.30 till 12 noon is a free webinar event for FE Skills providers subject to the Prevent Duty (organised by Sam Slack, DFE East Midlands RPEC)

Tuesday 7 January (25) - 10.30 till 12 noon is a free webinar event for FE Skills providers subject to the Prevent Duty (organised by Sam Slack, DFE East Midlands RPEC)