

# Summerhouse

## Safeguarding

# Newsletter



This month's Safeguarding newsletter is all about **Destitution**. The Joseph Rowntree foundation has updated its Destitution in the UK report for 2018. It estimates that over 1.5million people, including 365,000 children, were destitute in the UK at some point during 2017.

This means that they could not afford to buy the essentials needed to eat, stay warm and dry, and keep clean. Parents interviewed spoke of: trying to protect their children from going hungry, usually by going without food themselves; children's clothing being an issue because of the frequent need for new clothes as they grew; and struggling with the expense of school uniforms.



## What causes Destitution?

Destitution is not always caused by low income (less than £70 pw) or down to being a refugee, on benefits or being a single parent. Interestingly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those destitute were born in the UK and there is a higher risk of single men being destitute.

Debt is also an increasing factor. As the cost of living continues to increase, pay day loans and, the quest to keep on trend and any number of things can cause a person to go into debt. Paying the minimum payments, harsh repayment plans or constantly living on credit, puts us all at risk. The cost of this can cause people who earn good money, to have minimal money for every day essentials.

## What to look for

- Changes in behaviour – those that normally eat with you changing behaviour and saying they have already eaten
- Weight loss
- Changes in mood
- Becoming withdrawn
- Clothes becoming worn or smelling

## Where can I go – if this is affecting me or people I know?

- Don't ignore the problem – it won't go away!
- Speak to your creditors – sometimes they will agree a repayment plan
- Prioritise those bills (food, shelter (mortgage) and heat (gas and electric bills)
- Budget – look at your income and outgoings – what can you cut or reduce – Brand foods aren't always the best.. Do you need that packet of Cigarettes or alcohol?
- Get Help - Contact the National Debt Advice service – they can help you <https://nationaldebtadvice.org.uk> or call them on: 0808 223 4188
- Don't go for the quick fix and pay day loans





## Refugees and Politics

We have heard a lot recently about Trump and the Refugee crisis, separating Children and families. We haven't really heard how this is affecting the UK and its policies around Asylum and refugee status. Information below has been taken from the Refugee council UK.

### What is the difference between a Refugee and an Asylum Seeker?

**Refugee:** A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it

**Asylum Seeker:** A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded.

There were 30,603 asylum applications to the UK in 2016. (National Statistics on asylum 4th Quarter 2016) – the UK hosts less than 1% of the worlds refugee population and less than 3% of the Asylum seekers and the Home office still detains some children seeking asylum with their families each year!

Asylum seekers do not receive large handouts and are not allowed to work – most only get £5 a day to live on! Please go to the <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk> to find out more information



### How does the Rule of Law play into my Qualification and job?

- Reviews
- Your induction/code of conduct
- Appeals and complaints procedures
- Your level of authority
- Qualification requirements
- Your 121's at work
- Procedures and practices