

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter for the 'Safe and Secure' project, which we hope with your support and input, will be an informative and supportive service from Just Good Friends.

The simple aim is to keep us all that little bit safer through the collective sharing of information, to identify current scams both on and offline and to allow Just Good Friends to research and report potential fraudulent activity through the appropriate channels.

I'm sure we all know or have heard of friends and families who have fallen victim to what at times are very convincing scams, where what appear to very legitimate e-mails or phone calls turn out in the end to be an cruel attempt to either obtain your personal information or encourage you to part with your hard earned money. Well together we hope to make that harder for these very well organised individuals.

I'd like to introduce myself as a point of contact. My name is Katie and I am a Year 10 pupil in high school and I am volunteering to help with this informative and exciting project as part of my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. I will be working with and Jo who has been part of the Just Good Friends family for some time. We have the added bonus that Jo previously served with Lancashire Constabulary for some considerable time and this experience will be a great advantage, and no doubt Jo will keep me on the right path.

So what is the plan? Well we will be liaising with the Police, Local Authority and other relevant agencies and we will be carrying out our own research to help raise awareness of current scams/trends. The really good thing is that you can also be a part of this project. If you become aware of a potential scam we simply would ask you e-mail our specially created e-mail address with as much detail as possible and we can then alert the relevant authorities and also share the information to hopefully make members of Just Good Friends and their wider friends and family that little bit more "Safe and Secure."

If you have any worries or concerns about scams you have been receiving please don't hesitate to contact Jo and I via the email address at the bottom of this newsletter.

Please be assured that we will manage any information you provide us in line with the relevant Data Protection Guidance and record any information on a restricted spreadsheet to ensure we can record what action has been taken. We will of course then let you know our findings and where appropriate share it with the rest of the group.

This is only a starting point and I'm sure that as time passes this project without doubt has the ability to grow.

So to close for now, thank you for taking the time to read my first attempt at a newsletter and thank you for supporting me on my Duke of Edinburgh journey.

Both myself and Jo look forward to updating you in due course and we are of course open to any suggestions.

The all-important e-mail address for you to forward any relevant scams/frauds is staysafejgf@yahoo.com

Many thanks,

Katie and Jo