

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2021-22

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INTRODUCTION

Cambridge Regional College fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act, 2021 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2021). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under Part One of this document, which are set out below.

Staff should read the above document together with 'Annex B' of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021 and 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners' (March 2015) if they are working directly with young people and vulnerable adults.

Through their day-to-day contact with students and direct work with families all staff in college have a responsibility to:

- Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating;
- Provide a safe environment in which young people and adults can learn;
- Identify young people and vulnerable adults who may benefit from early help;
- Know what to do if a young person or vulnerable adult tells them he/she is being abused or neglected;
- Follow the referral process if they have a concern.

This policy sets out how the college's governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults who are students at the college. Our policy applies to **all** staff, paid and unpaid, working in the college including governors. Teaching assistants, all support staff and contractors, as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a student. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the college and its governors.

This policy is consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

There are four main elements to our policy:

PREVENTION through the teaching and pastoral support offered to students and the creation and maintenance of a whole college protective ethos;

PROCEDURES for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A);

SUPPORTING CHILDREN particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards others;

PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are not employed.

This policy is available to parents on request and is on the college website.

1.0 PREVENTION

1.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect young people and vulnerable adults.

1.2 The college will therefore:

1.2.1 Establish and maintain an environment where students feel safe, including in a digital context, and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.

1.2.2 Ensure students know that there are staff in the college whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.

1.2.3 Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip students with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse in all contexts, including:

- How to: determine whether other people or sources of information are trustworthy; judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
- The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships
- That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control
- What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable
- About online risks, including that any material someone provides has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removed potentially compromising material placed online
- What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online
- The impact of viewing harmful content
- That specifically explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.
- That sharing and viewing indecent images of children and young people (including those created by children and young people) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail
- The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, control, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based abuse and FGM and how they can affect current and future relationships.
- How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent and how and when that can be withdrawn (in all contexts including online).

For our supported learners, the following will be incorporated into the curriculum and activities:

- How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.

- How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.
- That some people behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful context and contact and how to report them.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.
- About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
- That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.
- How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
- How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- Where to get advice e.g. family, college and/or other sources.

2.0 PROCEDURES

2.1 We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter-Agency Procedures'. A copy of these procedures can be found on their website:
<http://www.safeguardingcambpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

2.2.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Michelle Dowse, Deputy Principal & DSL

2.2.2 The following members of staff have also received the Designated Safeguarding Lead training:

Gayle Brown – Safeguarding Manager (DDSL and Prevent Lead)
Emily Bennett – Director of Student Support Services (DDSL) & Mental Health Lead
Jeremy Lloyd – Director of Foundation Learning (DDSL)
Georgina Priddle – Safeguarding Officer
Nicola Bridge – Safeguarding Officer
Jasmin Adams – Safeguarding Officer
Lauren Milner – Looked After Children Coordinator & College LAC Lead
Steve How – LRC and PD Coach Manager
Tasha Matthews – Senior Student Advisor
Emma Humphrey – Student Advisor
Grace O'Reilly – Student Advisor
Kayleigh Horn – Student Advisor – Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Lead
Jenna Evans – Student Advisor & Young Carer Lead
Nadine Jug – PD Coach
Rebecca Fensome – PD Coach
Caroline Nicholls – Counsellor
Julie Shorter – Safeguarding Ambassador - SEND

2.2.3 The nominated governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection is:

Mike Cole

2.3 The *Governing body* will:

- 2.3.1 Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL), the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.
- 2.3.2 Ensure that the role of DSL and DDSL is explicit in the role holder's job description.
- 2.3.3 Ensure that the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the college to carry out the duties of the post. Give the DSL the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, Annex C). Ensure that the DSL and deputies have undertaken the two-day training provided by the Education Safeguarding Team and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.
- 2.3.4 Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DDSLs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**.
- 2.3.5 Ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, and the governing body knows who the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the **point of induction**.

Staff members are required to report a concern on the My Concern electronic system and submit it to the DSL/DDSL immediately. For urgent cases, staff members should call the safeguarding number first and then log a report on My Concern.

- 2.3.6 Ensure that the DSL or DDSL are always available (during college hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and DDSL are not available. In such circumstances, staff should speak to a member of the senior leadership team and/or take advice from social care. This should not delay appropriate action being taken.
- 2.3.7 Liaise with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, clinical commissioning group and police) as appropriate and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018.
- 2.3.7 Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken appropriate training.
- 2.3.8 Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:
- the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies and their role;
 - how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect;
 - how to pass on and record concerns about a student;
 - that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse; and for referring safeguarding concerns to the DSL/DDSL;
 - that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which young people and vulnerable adults can learn;
 - where to find the Inter-Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website;
 - their role in the early help process;
 - the process for making referrals to children's social care;
 - the safeguarding response to children, young people and vulnerable adults who go missing in education.
- 2.3.9 Ensure all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. Ensure that staff training is regularly updated and that in addition to this training all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**.
- 2.3.10 Ensure that **all** staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to young people and vulnerable adults and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.
- 2.3.11 Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the college and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties on the college website.
- 2.3.12 Ensure that this policy is available publicly via the college website www.camre.ac.uk.

2.3.13 Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that young people and vulnerable adults who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and college leadership staff.

2.4 **Liaison with Other Agencies**

The college will:

2.4.1 Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all students.

2.4.2 Co-operate as required, in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' (July 2018), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.

2.4.3 Notify the relevant Social Care Team immediately if:

- it should have to exclude a student who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently);
- there is an unexplained absence of a student who is subject to a Child Protection Plan;
- there is any change in circumstances to a student who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.

2.4.4 When a student who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Team will also be informed.

2.5 **Record Keeping**

The college will:

2.5.1 Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about young people and vulnerable adults (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately.

2.5.2 All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate safeguarding file for each child.

2.5.3 Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

2.5.4 Electronic records are stored on an identified, purpose-built, secure platform (e.g. MyConcern).

- 2.5.5 Ensure all relevant safeguarding records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a student moves to another education provider, within five days, in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, (page 148) and the Education Safeguarding Team's Guidance on Keeping and Managing Child Safeguarding Records.

The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new school/college in advance of a student leaving.

- 2.5.6 Make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child/young person or vulnerable adult at risk of harm.
- 2.5.7 Ensure all actions and decisions are led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child/young person or vulnerable adult.

2.6 Confidentiality and information sharing

- 2.6.1 Information about children and their families is defined as 'special category data', i.e. information that identifies a living individual. Collection, storage and sharing of personal data is governed by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The college will:

- 2.6.2 Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.
- 2.6.3 Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children and young people, (as set out in 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).
- 2.6.4 Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a student or parent they will refer the request to the Data Protection Officer DPO@camre.ac.uk in line with our Data Protection Policy.
- 2.6.5 Ensure staff are clear with young people and vulnerable adults that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies will:

- 2.6.6 Disclose information about a student to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required.
- 2.6.7 Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a student at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a young person or vulnerable adult in a timely manner.

- 2.6.8 Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018)
- 2.6.9 In cases where the 'serious harm test' is met, colleges must withhold providing the data in compliance with colleges' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt colleges should seek independent legal advice.
- 2.6.10 Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

2.7 **Communication with Parents/Carers**

The college will:

- 2.7.1 Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the college and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the college prospectus/website.
- 2.7.2 Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency unless the circumstances preclude this action.
- 2.7.3 Discuss with Children's Social Care if the college believes that notifying parents could place the student or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.
- 2.7.4 Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, the rationale must be recorded. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence.

2.8 **Peer on Peer Abuse**

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse within intimate partner relationships; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexual violence and sexual harassment; consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party; upskirting part of the Voyeurism (Offences) Act, April 2019) and initiation/ hazing type violence and rituals. Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

- 2.8.1 All forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

The college will therefore:

- 2.8.2 Create a whole college protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

- 2.8.3 Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.
- 2.8.4 Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as an inevitable part of growing up.
- 2.8.5 Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support students in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.
- 2.8.6 Provide high quality personal development and enrichment programme including teaching about consent.
- 2.8.7 Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of peer on peer abuse.
- 2.8.8 Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk.

2.9 **Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children**

- 2.9.1 Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children or young people of any age and sex from primary to secondary stage and into colleges. It can also occur online. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children and young people who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same college. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

The college will:

- 2.9.2 Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 2.9.3 Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- 2.9.4 Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.9.5 Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.
- 2.9.6 Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other students and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.

- 2.9.7 Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- 2.9.8 Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.
- 2.9.9 Refer to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five', 2021, 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges,' (DfE, September, 2021) for full details of procedures to be followed in such cases. Also see 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' (UKCIS, December 2020)

3.0 SUPPORTING CHILDREN

The college recognises that **any** child, young person or vulnerable adult may be subject to abuse and that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a student has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation and as such will support all young people and vulnerable adults by:

- 3.1 Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- 3.2 Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community.
- 3.3 Applying the college's behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the young person or vulnerable adult but does not damage the student's sense of self-worth. The college will ensure that the student knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- 3.4 Liaise with the senior mental health lead where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health in college for advice on case management.
- 3.5 Liaising with other agencies which support the student such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams.
- 3.6 Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young adults, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- 3.7 The college recognises that whilst **any** student may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a young person's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for young people and vulnerable adults in particular circumstances. Please see pages 8 – 9 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021 for the complete list. The list includes:

3.6.1 **Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs**

We recognise that, statistically, children and young people with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. College staff who deal with young people and vulnerable adults with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

The college has students with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. The college will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual student and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

As part of the PSHE curriculum staff will teach young people and vulnerable adults personal safety skills commensurate with their age, ability and needs. Students will be taught personal safety skills such as: how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how recognise and manage risk including in a digital context. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

The college has students who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead, such students will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the young person.

Where necessary, the college will provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the student.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled students know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

3.6.2 **Young Carers**

The college recognises that young people and vulnerable adults who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

The college will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

3.6.3 Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children and young people is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

All staff will consider whether young people are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. The college will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

The college recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

3.6.4 Children Frequently Missing Education

The college recognises that young people going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, modern slavery, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

The college monitors attendance of individual students closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyses patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.

The college endeavours to hold more than one emergency contact for each student to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a young person missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

When a young person is missing from education, the college follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance. The college will inform Social Care if a missing young person is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

3.6.5 Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol

The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the college will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- To believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse;
- To believe the student's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults;
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse.
- Where the misuse indicates an urgent health or safeguarding concern
- Where the young person is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality

3.6.6 **Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's [Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool](#) and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

The college recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

3.6.7 **Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers**

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children and young people, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.

When the college receives information about drug and alcohol abuse by a student's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.

This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the young people
- Young people exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child

3.6.8 Children Living with Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.

All children and young people can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children and young people. In some cases, a young person may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer on peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16).

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected' regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour.

The college recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. Domestic Abuse can also affect children and young people in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. The college will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children and young people living in domestic abuse households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

At Cambridge Regional College, we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to students who have experienced domestic abuse in their home; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

In order to achieve this, Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic incidents, where one of our students has been present, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL)/Domestic Abuse (DA) Lead.

On receipt of any information, the DSL/DA Lead will decide on the appropriate support the young person may require. **The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information.** All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough *Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings*'.

3.6.9 **Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Abuse including Female Genital Mutilation**

So called, 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The college takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBA through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBA as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is under 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DSL, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the student's wishes.

In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Teachers should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve social care as appropriate, but the teacher will personally report to the police that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out.

3.6.10 **Children who have returned home to their family from care**

The college recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable. The college will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board 'Inter - Agency Procedures.'

3.6.11 **Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect**

The college recognises that experiencing abuse or neglect may have an adverse impact on those young people which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support. The college may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of young people at risk. Students who have experienced abuse or neglect may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn. We recognise that young people may develop abusive behaviours and that these students may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the college and/or can occur between young people outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should consider whether young people are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and young people can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

The college will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

3.6.12 **Children at Risk of Radicalisation**

Young people are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting young people from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting them from this risk should be a part of a colleges' safeguarding approach.

The governing body will ensure that the DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and that all staff receive training about the Prevent Duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in young people's behaviour which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a student is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. The college's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.

See also 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers', DfE (June 2015), and 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (July 2015).

3.6.13 **Privately Fostered Children**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative in their own home for 28 days or more.

The college will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer to the Specialist Fostering Team.

3.6.14 **Children who have Family Members in Prison**

The college is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the young person.

The college recognises that young people with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

The college will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

The college will work with the family and the child to minimise the risk of the young person not achieving their full potential.

4.0 PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

4.1 The college will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part Three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021. This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

4.2 The governing body will ensure that at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.

A list of all staff who have undertaken Safer Recruitment training is available from HR on request.

4.3 Allegations that may meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section One)

4.3.1 Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers) that meets the harms threshold as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021, Part Four, Section One, will be reported straight away to the DSL or Principal or in their absence to the Director of HR.

4.3.2 In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The college will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.

4.3.3 The college will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, volunteer or agency/supply staff and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021 and the college's HR Policies, and seek advice where required.

4.3.4 The Principal, DSL, Director of HR or Chair of Governors will ensure that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. The LADO will advise on all further action to be taken.

4.3.5 Before contacting the LADO, colleges should conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help them determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation, being careful not to jeopardise any future police investigation.

4.3.6 Where the college identify a young person has been harmed they should contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately.

4.3.7 The college will consider:

- **Looking after the welfare of the young person** - the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that the young person is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care.
- **Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation** - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.

4.3.8 The college will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff, supply staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff, supply staff or volunteer is no longer employed at the college and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.

4.3.9 Staff (including supply staff and volunteers) who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension should not be an automatic response when an allegation is reported. However, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that young people are protected.

4.4 **Concerns that do not meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section Two)**

4.4.1 Low level concerns that do not meet the harms threshold should be reported to the DSL or Principal or in their absence the Director of HR. NB: The term low level does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a young person does not meet the harms test.

4.4.2 In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. The college will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2021.

4.4.3 The college will deal with any such concern, no matter how small, where an adult working in or on behalf of the college may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

- 4.4.4 All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible.
- 4.4.5 Colleges can decide where these records are kept, but they must be kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). Records are kept electronically in a document that is password protected and only accessible by the DSL, Principal and Director of HR.
- 4.5 The college will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will enable the college to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the college are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the institution.
- 4.5.1 The college should ensure that **all** staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with students and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority's Code of Conduct: 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019). As part of the Induction process, all staff, paid and unpaid, will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all young people, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.
- 4.5.2 All staff have signed to confirm that they have read 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (May 2019).
- 4.5.3 The college will ensure that staff, supply staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with students aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).

5.0 OTHER RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

5.1 This policy links to our:

- Learner Bullying and Harassment policy (LEA27)
- Student Regulations (CUR15)
- Complaints procedure (QUA22)
- Single Equality Scheme (QUA16)
- Health and Safety First Aid policy (HAS18)
- Health and Safety welfare policy (LEA43)
- Intimate Care policy (LEA44)
- Lone Working policy (HAS23)
- E Safety (LEA34)
- IT Systems Acceptable Use policy (COM1)
- Recruitment and Selection Procedure (HR25)

Staff Code of Conduct Staff Grievance procedures (HR15 & HR18)
Chronic Medical Conditions policy (HAS21)
Whistleblowing policy (HR6)
Social Media policy (HR5)
Visitors to the College (LEA36)
Use of Taxis on the College account (LEA35)
Prevent Policy (LEA79)
Health & Safety procedure for Fire and Evacuation (FCE7)
Lone Worker Policy (HAS14)
ID Badge Policy (CUR13)
CCTV Policy (FCE13)
Internet Networking & Software Compliance (HR3)
Disciplinary procedure (HR11)
Data Protection Policy (EXA5)
Policy on Managing Consent for Sharing Personal Info with a Third Party (QUA36)
Subject Access Request Policy (EXA8) and procedure (EXA6)
DBS procedure (HR10)
Bullying Harassment Procedure (HR9)
14-16 Attendance and Punctuality policy (including Children Missing Education) and 14-16 Safeguarding Policy (ACA3 & ACA4)

6.0 GOVERNING BODY SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Governing bodies should ensure they facilitate a whole college approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the student at their heart.
- 6.2 The governing body fully recognises its responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. It aims to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in college are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times.

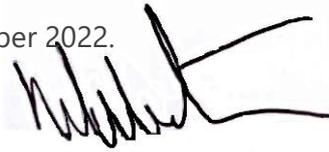
It will:

- Nominate a governor for safeguarding who will take leadership responsibility for the college's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion safeguarding issues.
- Ensure an annual safeguarding report is made to the full governing body and copied to the Education Safeguarding Team. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is annually reviewed, ratified, updated and understood and followed by all staff.
- It will be published on the college website.
- Ensure that young people's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.
- Ensure young people's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.

6.3 Use of college premises for non-college activities

- 6.3.1 If the governing body provides extended college facilities or before or after college activities directly under the supervision or management of college staff, the college's arrangements for safeguarding as written in this policy shall apply.
- 6.3.2 Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation or individual, either on or off college site, the governing body will seek assurance that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place to keep children and young people safe and there are arrangements to liaise with the college on these matters where appropriate.

This policy was approved by SMT on 8th September 2021 and Corporation on 28th September 2021, and will be reviewed in September 2022.



Signed by the Principal

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Heather Duquesnay

Chair of Governors

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Michelle Dawse.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Four categories of abuse

Physical Abuse - may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Neglect - persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-givers
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

Emotional Abuse - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only insofar as they meet another persons' needs

It may include:

- not giving the child opportunities to express their views
- deliberately silencing them
- 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning
- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children and young people frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children and young people.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone

Sexual Abuse – involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
 - children and young people in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,
 - children and young people in watching sexual activities
 - or encouraging children and young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
 - grooming a child or young person in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children and young people.

Appendix B

Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board – Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/>

Education Safeguarding Team ECPS.General@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit Tel: 101

Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire

Education Safeguarding Manager – Sara Rogers sara.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Early Help Hub (EHH) Tel: 01480 376666

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals Tel: 0345 045 5203

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) Tel: 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 727967

Senior Education Adviser – [Phil Nash](#) Tel: 01223 699448

Useful Contacts - Peterborough

Education Safeguarding Lead – Sue Proffitt susan.proffitt@peterborough.gov.uk

Early Help Tel: 01733 863649

Customer Service Centre – social care referrals Tel: 01733 864180

Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours) Tel: 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
Gisela Jarman Tel: 01733 864038
Jane Bellamy Tel: 01733 864790

Relevant Documents

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” ([September 2021](#))

LEA32 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy - September 2021 V2

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (May 2019)

“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (July 2018)

“The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers” (June 2015)

“Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales” (July 2015)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” (September, 2021)

Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (UKCIS, December 2020)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March, 2015)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (July 2018)

Document history

Date	Issue number	Change/Comments	Date Approved	Approved by
23/9/20	1	Annual update of document	23/9/2020	SMT
13/5/21	1.1	Changes to staffing	13/5/21	Student Support & Safeguarding Manager
1/9/21	2	Annual update of document	8/9/21	SMT



Contact Us
enquiry@camre.ac.uk