



Safeguarding Policy

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Purpose

Staffordshire Community Learning Service has a statutory duty to ensure all children and adults at risk are safe and is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all individuals accessing its services.

Staffordshire Community Learning Service will promote the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and all other service users in accordance with the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (as amended) and section 175 of the Education Act 2002 as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

The policy outlines the responsibilities of Staffordshire Community Learning Service, all staff, suppliers of commissioned services, volunteers, and visitors in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk and the safeguarding procedures for reporting a concern.

For the purposes of this policy, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment,
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development,
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

(Children Act, 2004)

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

The Care Act 2014 provides a legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system must protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults means:

- protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect,
- people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risk and the experience of abuse and neglect,
- people and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action,
- recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear, or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being.

An adult at risk may be:

- an older person who is frail due to ill health, physical disability, or cognitive impairment,
- a person who has a learning disability,
- a person who has a physical disability and/or sensory impairment,
- a person who has mental health needs, including dementia or other memory impairment or personality disorder,
- a person who has a long-term illness or condition,
- a person who misuses substances or alcohol to the extent it affects their capacity to

- manage day-to-day living,
- a carer, where the person meets the definition.

Scope

This policy provides guidance to all those working in, studying, and visiting any Staffordshire Community Learning provision to help protect all service users when learning face-to-face, online, and offline and when receiving remote education.

Introduction

The Department for Education guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) states:

*‘Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone’s** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the **best interest** of the child. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, **everyone** who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action.’*

Staffordshire Community Learning Service applies the same guidance and principle to welfare and safeguarding recognising that all adult learners are also vulnerable to abuse. Everyone has the right to be protected from harm and exploitation and to have their welfare safeguarded. Abuse and neglect can happen to anyone no matter who they are. All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children and adults can learn.

To ensure that no one suffers from unlawful discrimination, all services will be provided in a manner that respects age, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy or maternity, gender reassignment, marriage and/or civil partnerships. Individual rights, dignity and privacy will also be protected.

Abuse and Neglect

Knowing what to look for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect. All staff should be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children, adults at risk and other adult learners who may be in need of help or protection. If staff are unsure, they should always speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or deputy.

All staff should be aware that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another. All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents or behaviours can be associated with factors outside school or college and/or can occur between children and adults outside these environments, for example

- the wider neighbourhood,
- other education providers,
- the workplace,
- areas where young people gather, such as parks and bus stations,
- online activity.

All staff, but especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputies) should consider whether children and adults are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-

familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual abuse (including harassment and exploitation), domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse) criminal exploitation, serious youth crime, county lines and radicalisation.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap. They can occur between adult learners, or between children, or adults and children, during learning; they can occur online and face-to-face (both physically and verbally) on or off learning premises whilst a learner is enrolled and are never acceptable. All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of “**it could happen here.**” All staff should be aware of the importance of making clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, challenging all sexual behaviour, reporting all concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead according to procedures given below, and using pro-active strategies such as course agreement, ground rules, promotion of British Values, positive group management to minimise the risk of sexual violence or harassment occurring between learners.

All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children and adults are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. In many cases, abuse and other risks will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. Children and adults can also abuse their peers online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content. Indicators of abuse and neglect can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

In all cases, if staff are unsure, they should always speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) Specific Safeguarding Issues

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children and adults at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and or alcohol misuse and deliberately missing education can be signs that individuals are at risk. Further specific safeguarding issues are described in **Appendix 2**.

Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. Staff can access government guidance as required on the issues listed in **Appendix 3** via GOV.UK and other government websites.

How to report a safeguarding or prevent concern

Early Help is everyone’s responsibility and requires all those who come into contact with children and families to understand their role in identifying emerging problems and potential unmet need. Acting early to prevent problems getting worse, including in the early years of a child’s life, could have a positive impact on the child and their family.

Any child or adult may benefit from early help, but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child or adult who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs,
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health,

- and Care Plan),
- has a mental health need,
 - is a young carer,
 - is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines,
 - is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home,
 - is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or sexual or criminal exploitation,
 - is at risk of being radicalised or exploited,
 - has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending,
 - is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child or adult, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse,
 - is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves,
 - has returned home to their family from care,
 - is at risk of 'honour' based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage
 - is a privately fostered child, and
 - is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.

Report ALL incidents or concerns relating to learners on Staffordshire Community Learning provision to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the deputy safeguarding lead.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Amanda Darlington

Email: Amanda.darlington@staffordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01785 2778770

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Clare Roberts

Email: Clare.roberts@staffordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01785 2778770 or 07815 827037

Alternatively, you can report any safeguarding and Prevent duty incidents using the following online form:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Community-learning-service/ProviderInfo/Safeguarding-Prevent-incidents-enquiries-form.aspx>

If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, follow up via a different means of contact, until you are sure your referral has been received and acted on.

Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service

If you have a serious concern about the safety of a child or young person up to the age of 18 or you think they are being harmed or at risk of being harmed, immediately call:

Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support: 0300 111 8007 and select option 1.

Opening times: Monday to Thursday 8:30am-5pm / Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Emergency out of hours: Outside of the hours above, or on weekends and bank holidays, please contact the Emergency Duty Team on **0345 604 2886**

If you believe the child to be at risk of immediate harm, this must be reported to the police on 999 or 101.

Once you have reported to the police contact Staffordshire Children's Advice & Support or the Emergency Duty Team.

If a concern relates to a vulnerable adult or learner, report to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board

Phone: 0345 604 2719

Opening times: Monday to Thursday* 8:30am-5pm / Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

*Excludes Bank Holidays

Call: 0345 604 2886 at any other time

If you believe the adult to be at risk of immediate harm, this must be reported to the police on 999 or 101.

If you report a concern to Staffordshire Children's Advice & Support Service or the Emergency Team or Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership board or the Police you are **still required to report the concern to the Staffordshire Community Learning Designated Safeguarding Lead.**

Roles and Responsibilities

The senior officer is the nominated safeguarding lead at senior management level and is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and service compliance. The role is also accountable for:

- the appointment of a Designated Safeguarding Lead and monitoring this post to ensure the postholder has time and resources required to fulfil the duty.
- ensures the Designated Safeguarding Lead understands they have the responsibility in leading safeguarding and child protection across the Service and has the appropriate status, authority, funding, resources, training, and support to provide advice and guidance to all staff members within the Service on child welfare and child protection.
- safer recruitment procedures, including the appropriate checks in line with national guidance.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will carry out their role and responsibilities in accordance with all statutory guidance. This will include:

- regular review and implementation of the Safeguarding and Prevent policies, procedures, and action plans to reflect both law and best practice.
- ensuring each member of staff and those of commissioned services have access to the Service's Safeguarding and Prevent Duty policy and procedures.
- developing a culture of safeguarding being everyone's responsibility, ensuring that staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of

children, adults at risk and other learners and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported when they do.

- recording and reporting any areas of concern in safeguarding and the production of relevant action plans/risk assessments.
- liaising with Providers and their staff to complete risk and needs assessment following any report of sexual violence or harassment.
- keeping written records of decision about any concerns raised involving sexual violence or harassment.
- implementing safer recruitment procedures.
- having an understanding of staffing, volunteers and Governance arrangements and training needs for safeguarding across the Service and implementing safeguarding training and regular updates across the Service to include all employees, Senior Officers, and suppliers of commissioned services to allow them to understand their role in relation to safeguarding.
- maintaining robust systems to monitor and record training of all staff annually ensuring refresher time scales are evident. This will include bulletins, briefings, and inset/development day(s) training as well as external events attended.
- ensuring all employees, Senior Officers and suppliers of commissioned services annually read and understand Part One of Keeping Children's Safe in Education and any other reading as updates released throughout the year to maintain understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and legislation.
- ensuring all staff, Senior Officers and suppliers of commissioned services have an awareness of the current Whistleblowing policy and have a clear understanding with regards to the process to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and how such concerns are addressed professionally and sensitively in accordance with the agreed SCC Whistleblowing procedures.
- robust monitoring of Safeguarding and Prevent practice in subcontracted provision by undertaking unannounced quality assurance visits and analysing learner satisfaction surveys.
- continually developing an understanding of the county demographics, associated risks, and levels of resilience with regular attendance at the Staffordshire Prevent Board.
- referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care as required.
- providing expert advice within the Service to support staff in liaising with other agencies, making assessments and referrals.
- supporting staff who believe a referral should be made to Adult Safeguarding and Staffordshire Children's Advice & Support Service.
- ensuring all teaching/learner-facing staff are aware of their responsibility in reporting the disclosure of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that appears to have been carried out directly to Police. These staff are required to update the Designated Safeguarding Lead of notification to Police.
- report cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.
- referring cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required and refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police.
- ensuring all staff and regular visitors have training on how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child and/or adult and how to record and report this information accurately.
- recording and storing information in-line with UK GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Safeguarding and child protection records are kept separate from academic records.

- sharing risks and resilience of learners proportionately with staff members/volunteers on a 'need to know' basis and in the individual's best interest. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will clearly state reasons for sharing this information and that this is carried out in strict confidentiality.
- supporting the Service with regards to the requirements of the Prevent Duty and providing advice and support to staff on protecting learners from the risk of radicalisation.
- liaising with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies. Acting as a source of support, advice, and expertise for staff. Risk assessments will be completed as required and should, where appropriate, involve other agencies ensuring that each year the Senior Officers are informed of how the Service and its staff have complied with the policy, including, but not limited to, a report on the training that staff have undertaken.
- establishing clear lines of communication and reporting procedures when courses are delivered in centres that have their own designated person for safeguarding e.g. schools, day care centres.
- ensuring that Provider Managers review completed Community Learning Learner Feedback forms to check learner responses to 'safer learning' questions and respond appropriately, where necessary.
- monitoring the delivery of opportunities to raise awareness and/or teach safeguarding to ensure learners are taught about how to keep themselves and others safe, including online.
- ensuring appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place to support a safe environment in which to learn and regularly review the effectiveness.

The role of the Deputy Safeguarding Officer is to deputise for the Designated Safeguarding Lead on all matters relating to the welfare and safeguarding of children, adults at risk, and other learners.

Each subcontractor is expected to have a current Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policy for their organisation, which meets the latest government legislation and must have a Designated Safeguarding Lead. All subcontractors are required to:

- adhere to the requirements for DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and provide the service with dates of issue.
- promote safeguarding throughout their recruitment process and ensure all required checks are completed, including rigorously checking references.
- ensure safeguarding is included during the induction of all new staff involved with delivery of Community Learning programmes, to include, as a minimum:
 - the provider's policy and procedures for safeguarding
 - the Prevent Duty
 - identification of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
 - how to report disclosures, enquiries, or incidents
 - Safe Code of Conduct for staff
- ensure sure that those staff involved in Community Learning who do not work directly with children read Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education annually to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities.
- ensure all staff involved with delivery of Community Learning courses have completed safeguarding and Prevent Duty training prior to delivery and renew every two years, as minimum and annually read Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- provide details of staff training and copies of certificates.
- immediately inform the community learning Designated Safeguarding Lead of any safeguarding or Prevent incidents and detail the actions taken.

- liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to complete a risk and needs assessment following any report of sexual violence or harassment and put in place any mitigating actions agreed.
- report the death of a learner in the current or previous academic year (as soon as you become aware of it) to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This is to ensure appropriate support can be put in place for peers and staff and personal information is removed from future correspondence and/or surveys.
- deliver learning in safe environments where children, adults at risk and other learners can learn and develop, feel safe and are safe. This includes Community Learning programmes delivered face-to-face, online, and remotely.
- deliver a learner induction for each course stating expectations of learners in relation to safeguarding and Prevent and what to do if you do not feel safe, safer learning, staying safe online and equality, diversity, and inclusion. The induction is reinforced with the creation of a learner charter.
- promote and exemplify British Values to learners, staff and visitors and ensure they are at the centre of all activity. British Values are defined as: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.
- ensure learners are well-informed of the risks links to using technology and online platforms, including:
 - How to protect themselves from risks
 - Online sexual harassment
 - Online sexual abuse
 - Online bullying
 - Groomed online for exploitation or radicalisation
 - Risks of accessing and generating inappropriate content, for example 'sexting'
- as part of the curriculum, learners are supported to understand what constitutes a healthy relationship both online and offline, and to recognise risk, for example risks associated with criminal and sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, substance misuse, gang activity, radicalisation, and extremism, and are aware of the support available to them.
- ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place to provide a safe environment in which to learn.

Dealing with Disclosures and Procedure for Reporting Concerns

All staff have a responsibility to Recognise, Respond, Report, Record and Refer.

Recognise

- Be familiar with signs and indicators,
- Have a culture of listening to learners,
- Be vigilant for the unexpected.

Respond

- Be sensitive and empathic and listen,
- Ask direct, but not leading questions,
- Do not promise to keep anything to yourself.

Report

- Know how to report internally i.e., the Designated Safeguarding Lead,
- Know how to contact them,
- Know who to contact if they are unavailable.

Record

- Know your organisation's procedure for recording,
- Know what to record and where,
- Know where to send that information and how.

Refer

- This is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy.
- Others should only contact the authorities if it is an emergency where there is an immediate danger or risk of harm,
- Or if the Designated Safeguarding Lead is unavailable or acting inappropriately.

All staff must report any concerns that they have to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and must not dismiss a concern as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over a period; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In this circumstance, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy to allow the Designated Safeguarding Lead to build up a picture and access support for the child, or adult at the earliest opportunity.

The signs of abuse might not always be obvious, and a child or adult might not let anyone know what is happening to them. Staff should therefore question behaviours if something seems unusual and try to speak to the individual, alone, if appropriate, to seek further information. If an individual reports to a member of staff that they are being abused or neglected, staff should listen to them, take their allegation seriously, and reassure them that action will take place to keep them safe. Staff will need to decide the most appropriate action to take, depending on the circumstances of the case, the seriousness of the individual's allegation and the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place.

If a child or adult has a serious injury, dial 999 and request assistance from the ambulance service and/or police. If you know or suspect the child or adult has come to harm through the actions of another, make sure that the professional you hand over to understands this and take their name and record it. It will generally be appropriate to inform parent/carers what has happened once the child or adult is safe with an appropriate professional. Staff must then report the incident to their provider Designated Safeguarding Lead and the community learning Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If the concern is long term rather than immediate, you should discuss this with your provider Designated Safeguarding Lead or the community learning Designated Safeguarding Lead who will decide whether it meets the threshold for making a referral to the Safeguarding board.

It is not the responsibility of the Community Learning Service or staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All staff, however, have a duty to recognise and respond to concerns and report the information in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

If a child or adult tells a member of staff about possible abuse, **you must:**

- ask open-ended questions to clarify your concern e.g. "What happened to your arm?"

- listen to the child or adult and follow your gut feelings,
- take action,
- listen carefully and stay calm,
- reassure the child or adult that by telling you, they have done the right thing,
- reassure the child or adult that, although information must be shared, it will be on a need-to-know basis. Inform them that you will need to report the matter,
- keep the child or adult focused on task, encouraging them at all times to ensure they are sharing truthful and accurate information,
- make a detailed note of the date, time, place, exact words that the child or adult said without paraphrasing, your questions and all the relevant information. Please sign and print your name at the bottom of the record,

Do not:

- carry out your own investigation,
- put words in any child or adult's mouth by asking direct questions such as "Did your dad do it?"
- feel that you must inform parents/carers if you think it may put the child or adult at risk of further harm or cause them to be silenced,
- ignore your worry,
- ask the child or adult to sign what you have recorded or to repeat it to another member of staff,
- take photographs of any injury,
- delete information/photographs from a computer/memory stick/mobile phone or any other electronic device,
- view, copy, print, store or save imagery as evidence or ask a child or adult to share or download on your behalf,
- make promises to the child or adult,
- share information about any safeguarding incident with others.

All concerns about a child or their family should be reported without delay to your Provider Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Community Learning Designated Safeguarding Lead who will ensure that this is recorded electronically using our safeguarding system in a timely manner.

Following receipt of any information raising concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider what action to take and seek further advice from Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service or Education Safeguarding Advice Service as required. All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions/actions made, will be fully documented.

Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a child or adult have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should, in the first instance, raise their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. (See also whistleblowing section below).

For any concerns raised, consultation must take place with the Designated Safeguarding Lead regarding who will be the most appropriate person to initiate any referral. A written record of concerns will be made using a referral form. This will then be passed to the Local Authority Safeguarding team or to the Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service immediately, if appropriate.

Record Keeping

Well-kept records are essential in situations where it is suspected or believed that a child or adult may be at risk from harm.

Records should:

- state who was present, time, date, and place,
- use the person's own words,
- state exactly what was said,
- differentiate clearly between fact, opinion, interpretation, observation and/or allegation,
- be signed by the recorder,
- all documentation must be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead where the records will be retained securely and separately.

Statutory Assessments

Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. Referrals should follow the local referral process.

Children in need

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significant or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. Local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Children suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

Local authorities, with the help of other organisations as appropriate, have a duty to make enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Such enquiries enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and must be initiated where there are concerns about maltreatment, including all forms of abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation or other so-called honour-based violence, and extra-familial threats like radicalisation and sexual exploitation.

Within one working day of a referral being made, a local authority social worker should acknowledge receipt to the referrer and make a decision about the next steps and the type of response that is required.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Confidentiality is an issue that needs to be understood by all those working with children and adults, particularly in the context of safeguarding. This is a complex area and involves consideration of a number of pieces of legislation.

Staff can never guarantee confidentiality as some kinds of information may need to be shared with others. Professionals can only work together to safeguard if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. This has been recognised by the courts. However, any disclosure of

personal information to others, including social care departments, must always have regard to both common and statute law.

Normally, personal information should only be disclosed to third parties (including other agencies) with the consent of the subject of that information under GDPR laws. Information may also be shared without consent in order to prevent or detect a crime, prevent serious harm to a child or adult, or due to a public interest concern.

It is important that governing bodies and proprietors are aware that among other obligations, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR place duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect. As part of meeting a child's needs, it is important for governing bodies and proprietors to recognise the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies. This should include ensuring arrangements are in place that set out clearly the processes and principles for sharing information within the school or college and with the three safeguarding partners, other organisations, agencies, and practitioners as required. School and college staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to the local authority children's social care.

Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure relevant staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This includes:

- being confident of the processing conditions which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information, which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data.'
- understanding that 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk.
- for schools, not providing pupils' personal data where the serious harm test under the legislation is met. For example, in a situation where a child is in a refuge or another form of emergency accommodation, and the serious harms test is met, they must withhold providing the data in compliance with schools' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt schools should seek independent legal advice.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and adults safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children and adults.

The law also requires the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard children and adults. Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, statutory agencies have a duty to co-operate with the Local Authority if there may be risk of significant harm. Therefore, if the Police or Social Care services are conducting a Section 47 investigation under the 1989 Children Act, staff must share requested information relevant to the investigation. Legal advice should be sought if in doubt

through the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

When working in partnership with 3rd party organisations who signpost and refer individuals to Community Learning provision it is vital that confidentiality is maintained where required but that information sharing processes are implemented effectively to ensure staff, volunteers and learners always remain safe, and that we remain an inclusive service. There may be situations where the signposted individual has restrictions placed on them linked to a criminal conviction which may prevent them from enrolling on a Community Learning course. This is likely when signposting or referrals come from the Police, Probation and the Department for Work and Pensions. In this situation, the referring organisation will not share detail concerning the criminal offence but will share information about restrictions or confirm the individual can or cannot engage in the planned Community Learning course. In some instances, the completion of an individual risk assessment may be required before the individual can enrol to mitigate potential risk. In this situation, you should contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

Volunteers and External Speakers/Visitors

The Community Learning Service encourages visitors and recognises the potential benefits in promoting access to community classes. At the same time, we have a duty to avoid disrupting the educational process and to protect learners, staff, and property. Limitations may be placed on visitors in the interests of safety, security and for the safeguarding of learners. This procedure is designed to manage all visitors to ensure their experience is positive and the outcome is safe for all.

The policy applies to all provision subcontracted and directly delivered by the Staffordshire County Council's Community Learning Service, wherever the delivery takes place.

Visitors might be:

- volunteers supporting the tutor,
- care/support workers attending to work with specific learners,
- supplementary tutor employed to work with the led tutor in sessions, for example to lend expertise in specific skills,
- members of the Community Learning Service, County Council, Department for Education or Ofsted, visiting for monitoring or inspection purposes,
- associated with other partners of the Provider,
- external speakers engaged by the Provider to lead part or a whole of a teaching session,
- anyone else present in the session who is not either:
 - an enrolled learner
 - the appointed tutor(s) and regular Learning Support Assistants
 - staff and managers of the subcontracted provider and Direct Delivery Unit

Access to community classes: To uphold our duty to safeguard children and adults, unauthorised access to classes is not permitted.

For visitors who are visiting community learning courses in a professional capacity, the Provider must check ID and be assured that the visitor has had an appropriate DBS check (or the visitor's employers must confirm their staff have appropriate checks prior to the visit). Providers must not ask to see the DBS certificate.

Providers must ensure that all visitors comply with the relevant signing in/registration procedure at their venue. Tutors must ensure that all visitors have registered/signed in with the tutor before entering the class and are escorted at all times by the member of staff they are visiting. Everyone

accessing the building should have some form of ID available. During monitoring visits (e.g. Community Learning staff or inspectors) the tutor should identify by name and role all other non-learners and visitors (e.g. volunteers, support workers etc.) to the monitoring visitor.

Anyone who may need unsupervised access to learners must have undergone a suitable disclosure check (DBS) and this will need to be approved by the provider in advance of access. Examples include volunteers, agency staff, and additional support workers. Regular visitors must have an ID issued by the provider and the Community Learning ID card visible and available at all times. Regular visitors can be added to the class register if they have DBS checks in place, undertake safeguarding training and can therefore have unrestricted and unaccompanied access.

External Speakers: The term external speaker is used to describe any individual or organisation who is not a learner or staff member who leads a learning activity or promotes additional community opportunities. All events held during an CL class involving external speakers, will be subject to this Policy; including events where external speakers are streamed live into an event (sound and/or visual) or a pre-recorded film/sound recording is playing.

The subcontractor is responsible for the activities that take place within their courses and organised events. All speakers must be made aware of their responsibility to abide by the law, the Community Learning and Provider policies, including that they:

- must not incite hatred, violence or call for the law to be broken
- are not permitted to encourage, glorify, or promote any acts of terrorism, including individuals, groups or organisations that support such acts.
- must not spread hatred and intolerance in the community and thus aid in disrupting social and community harmony
- must seek to avoid insulting other faiths or groups, within a framework of positive debate and challenge.
- are not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without express permission of the Head of Adult Learning and Skills.

Community Learning reserves the right to cancel, prohibit or delay any event with an external speaker which does not meet the criteria in this policy, or the services detailed within the Call-off Contract.

Reporting and Dealing with Allegations against a Member of Staff

This procedure applies to all staff, whether teaching, administrative, management or support, as well as to volunteers. The generic term 'staff' is used for ease of description and refers to all staff groups.

Any situation in which an allegation or concern arises about the conduct of a person who 'works' with children and adults should be managed using the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board inter-agency policy and procedures.

Specifically, the question should be asked as to whether the allegation or concern meets any of the following thresholds:

- behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child or adult,
- possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child or adult,
- behaved towards a child or vulnerable adult in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm or

- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children or adults.

If any of these situations apply, then it must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will then refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within 24 hours of the allegation being made.

Professional Conduct Guidelines

Staffordshire Community Learning Service expects all its employees to always behave in a professional manner. This also incorporates considering your personal actions and giving due consideration for any action that may bring the County Council into disrepute.

The following information is provided as guidance for what is deemed as acceptable and reasonable behaviour and aims to help staff safeguard students and reduce the risk of conduct which could be mistakenly interpreted as improper and lead to allegations being made against individuals.

Principles:

- the welfare of children and adults is paramount,
- staff are responsible for their own actions,
- staff should be seen to work in a transparent way,
- staff should report any incident which may give rise to concern to their manager,
- staff and subcontractors should be aware of, and follow, Community Learning safeguarding procedures,
- staff who breach this code of conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures,
- serious breach of this code may result in a referral being made to an external or statutory agency such as the local authority Social Care Team or the Police.

Working with Learners

All staff have a duty of care to keep learners safe and are accountable for the way in which they use their authority and position of trust. This duty can be best exercised through the development of caring but professional relationships.

Staff should ensure that their relationships with learners are appropriate to the age and gender of the student, taking care that their conduct does not give rise to comment or speculation. Attitudes, demeanour, and language all require care and thought, particularly when dealing with both young and vulnerable learners. Comments by staff to young and vulnerable learners, either individually or collectively, can be misconstrued.

As a general principle, staff must not make unnecessary comments to and/or about others, which could be construed to have a sexual connotation. It is also unacceptable for staff to introduce or to encourage debates in a class, training situation or elsewhere, which could be construed as having a sexual connotation that is unnecessary given the context of the session or the circumstances.

Staff should:

- treat all learners with respect and dignity,
- always put the welfare of the learner first,
- understand that the systematic use of insensitive, disparaging, or sarcastic comments such as those that refer to a person's body, intelligence, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnicity in

any way are unacceptable,

- not swear or use offensive or discriminatory language,
- never make sexual remarks or discuss your own personal sexual relationships,
- avoid any communication which could be interpreted as sexually provocative,
- end the discussion if it becomes uncomfortable or embarrassing,
- work in an open environment, avoiding private or unobserved situations, and encourage open communication,
- give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism,
- always challenge inappropriate language from learners or colleagues,
- never allow allegations made by a learner to go unrecorded or not acted upon,
- never share information about students in a casual manner or allow student access to information on staff computers,
- never give out their own personal details or a learner's personal details to other learners
- log off or lock their computer whenever leaving it unattended,
- not allow learners to use your computer unless you have logged off,
- staff should only email learners from their work email address and not their personal email address.

Behaviours

- staff should adopt high standards of personal conduct at all times,
- staff's clothing should reflect a professional appearance and should be suitable for the occupational area in which they are working,
- staff must wear their identity badge when on the premises,
- staff should, where applicable wear relevant protective clothing to set a professional example to learners,
- staff should dress in a manner which will avoid inappropriate comments,
- never act in a way that can be perceived as threatening,
- accessing or bringing images of pornography i.e., sexualised images without artistic merit on site is never acceptable, regardless of format,
- storing or disseminating such material is illegal and if proven will lead to the person being barred from working with young people,
- when communicating with learners electronically, staff should only use the organisation's mobiles, email, or official internet sites,
- staff should never keep images of learners on personal equipment.

Mobile Phones

- staff should only use company devices when contacting learner i.e., not their personal mobile phone number.

Social Media for Study

When setting up any social media groups or pages for study purposes, staff must declare this to their line manager. Staff should liaise with their organisation's IT (Information Technology) Manager and External Communications Manager to ensure that the page has the correct security and corporate logos in place. Further guidance on the use of social media is detailed in the E-safety policy.

Sexual Contact

It is a criminal offence for a person in a position of trust to engage in any sexual activity with a person aged under 18 with whom they have a relationship of trust, irrespective of the age of consent, even if the basis for their relationship is consensual. There is no acceptable behaviour that has either explicit sexual connotations or innuendo. Any such behaviour will always be treated as extremely serious and must be reported immediately.

Incidents that must be reported

- a learner is accidentally hurt,
- staff are concerned that a relationship is developing that could represent an abuse of trust,
- staff are concerned that a learner is becoming attracted to you or a colleague,
- staff are concerned that a colleague is becoming attracted to someone in his/her care,
- a learner misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done,
- staff have had to use reasonable physical restraint to prevent a learner harming themselves, or another, or from causing significant damage to property,
- a learner makes an allegation of abuse,
- staff see any suspicious marks on a learner,
- staff notice sudden changes in behaviour.

Whistleblowing

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the organisation's safeguarding regime and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by the Senior Leadership Team.

A colleague who wants to raise a wrongdoing can report to their line manager, Designated Safeguarding Officer or directly to the Council's Whistleblowing Contact Officer.

Contact Officer (Economic, Infrastructure and Skills):

Darryl Evers – Director for Economic, Infrastructure and Skills

Telephone: 01785 278580

Address: Staffordshire County Council, 4th Floor, Staffordshire Place 1, Stafford, ST16 2DH

The initial contact with the Contact Officer can be by telephone or in writing and, if the latter, should be in a sealed envelope addressed to the Contact Officer and marked: PIDA – Strictly Confidential. Email is not recommended.

Whistleblowing should be part of transparent work practices and is not intended to set up mistrust or suspicion among members of staff. Whistleblowing is when a worker reports suspected wrongdoing at work.

For example:

- a criminal offence; and/or
- a miscarriage of justice; and/or
- damage to the environment; and/or
- breach of a legal obligation; and/or
- a danger to health and safety; and/or
- a deliberate concealment of any of the above

A colleague can report things that are not right, that are illegal or if anyone at work is neglecting their duties. It can also include:

- someone's health and safety are in danger,
- damage to the environment,
- a criminal offence,
- the company is not obeying the law,
- covering up wrongdoing.

The Council will, at its discretion, consider disclosures that are made anonymously, although such disclosures are inevitably much less powerful. The Council will also treat every disclosure in confidence, and only reveal the identity of the person making it if absolutely necessary (e.g., if required in connection with legal action).

Safer Recruitment

The Council has responsibility for ensuring that recruitment, selection and retention decisions for posts working with children and adults at risk are safe and that they authority meets its statutory obligations as detailed in the Department for Education Statutory guidance.

Individuals employed to work in regulated activity will be required to have a DBS certificate before they commence in post. DBS will be renewed every 3 years and/or when a colleague changes job role.

Evidence of safer recruitment procedures and processes are recorded on a Single Central Record and include:

- Identity check
- DBS check
- Professional qualifications
- Right to work in the UK
- Proof of address
- Employment references

Appendix 1 – Types of Abuse and Indicators

Type of Abuse	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>Abuse and self-neglect</p>	<p>A form of maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult. Somebody may abuse or neglect by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children or vulnerable adults may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.</p> <p>Self-neglect is now seen as a classification of ‘abuse’ and therefore should be referred in the same way as abuse by others. Self-neglect can sometimes be as a result of a person’s choice of lifestyle and covers a wide range of behaviour including neglect to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and can include hoarding when it becomes extreme (including animal hoarding). In these circumstances there is no abuser.</p> <p>Possible indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in grossly unsanitary conditions • Suffering from untreated illness or disease/condition • Suffering from over- or under-eating to the extent that if untreated the adult’s physical or mental health could be impaired • Creating a hazardous situation that would likely cause serious physical harm to the adult or cause substantial loss of assets <p>(Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Board)</p>

<p>Emotional Abuse</p>	<p>The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult such as to cause severe and adverse effects on emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child or vulnerable adult that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child or vulnerable adult opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children or vulnerable adults. These may include interactions that are beyond their developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing them frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children and vulnerable adults. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment, although it may occur alone.</p> <p>Emotional signs of abuse may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clinging • Depression • Aggression • Extreme anxiety • Nervousness • Frozen watchfulness • Obsessions or phobias • Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration • Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults • Attention-seeking behaviour • Persistent tiredness • Running away/stealing/lying • Humiliating, taunting, or threatening a child whether in front of others or alone. • Persistent lack of attention, warmth, or praise • Shouting/yelling at a child • Radicalisation – use of inappropriate language, possession of violent extremist literature, behavioural changes, the expression of extremist views, advocating violent actions and means, association with known extremists, seeking to recruit others.
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Type of Abuse	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
Physical Abuse	<p>A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child or vulnerable adult.</p> <p>Signs of physical abuse can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruise marks consistent with either straps or slaps • Undue fear of adults – Fear of going home to parents or carers • Aggression towards others • Injuries or burns – particularly if they are recurrent and especially in non-mobile babies • Any injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them • Injuries that occur to the body in places which are not normally exposed to falls, rough games etc. • Reluctance to change for, or participate in games or swimming • Bruises, bites, burns, fractures etc. which do not have an accidental/satisfactory explanation • Cuts/scratches/substance abuse • Hitting (with the hand or implement) smacking, punching, kicking, slapping, twisting/pulling ear, hair, or fingers, holding/squeezing with a tight grip, biting, and burning • Fabricated illness
Sexual Abuse	<p>Involves forcing or enticing a child or adult to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not they are aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse.</p>

Type of Abuse	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education.</p> <p>Signs of sexual abuse may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and drawing inappropriate for age • Child with excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour • Regularly engages in age-inappropriate sexual play • Sexual knowledge inappropriate for their age • Wariness on being approached • Soreness in the genital area or unexplained rashes or marks in the genital areas • Pain on urination • Difficulty in walking or sitting • Stained or bloody underclothes • Recurrent tummy pains or headaches • Bruises on inner thigh or buttock • Any allegations made by a child concerning sexual abuse • Sexual activity through words, play or drawing • Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults • Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home • Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams, or nightmares, sometimes with overt or veiled sexual connotations • Eating disorders – anorexia, bulimia • Unaccounted sources of money • Telling you about being asked to ‘keep a secret’ or dropping hints or clues about abuse
Neglect	<p>The persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer 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); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s or vulnerable adult’s basic emotional needs.</p>

Type of Abuse	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>Signs of neglect may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to danger/lack of supervision • Under-nourishment • Failure to grow • Constant hunger • Stealing or gorging food • Untreated illnesses • Inadequate care • Injuries that have not received medical attention • Inadequate/inappropriate clothing • Poor standards of hygiene • Persistent lack of attention, warmth, or praise
<p>Suicide</p>	<p>Each year, people of all ages and from all backgrounds die because of suicide. Many more experience suicidal thoughts. Suicide causes a ripple effect, where friends, families and communities who are left behind struggle to understand and make sense of their loss. The impact of one person’s death spreads across the network of everyone they were connected to. However, suicide is preventable. Most suicidal people do not want to die; they just do not want to live any longer with the pain they experience. By spotting warning signs and talking openly about suicidal thoughts and feelings, we can reduce this pain and save a life.</p> <p>How to assess if someone is in suicidal crisis:</p> <p>Watch out for important warning signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressing the intent to hurt or kill themselves • Looking for ways to kill themselves: seeking access to pills, weapons etc. • Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide • Hopelessness, helplessness, shame, guilt • Rage, anger, or a desire to seek revenge • Reckless, risk-taking behaviour • Feeling trapped, like there is no way out • Increasing alcohol or drug use (substance misuse and suicide risk are strongly linked) • Withdrawing from friends, family, and society • Anxiety, agitation, inability to sleep or sleeping all the time • Dramatic changes in mood • No reason for living, no sense or purpose in life • Saying goodbye, or putting affairs in order • Sudden unexplained ‘recovery’ (people do not recover suddenly from mental health issues, so this is more likely a sign they have made up their mind) <p>In the event of a suicide crisis: (ALGEE) Approach the person, assess, and assist with any crisis Listen and communicate non-judgmentally Give support and information</p>

	<p>Encourage the person to get appropriate help Encourage other support</p> <p>How to help someone at immediate risk of suicide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure your own personal safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not get involved physically if the person is distressed and threatening • Call for assistance, particularly if someone is threatening to jump • Observe from a safe position until help arrives 2. Ensure the person is not left alone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay with the person if you think that the risk of suicide is high, or • Arrange for someone to be with them while they get through the immediate crisis 3. Seek immediate help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone their GP and ask for an emergency home visit, or • Call emergency 999, or • Take the person to a hospital accident and emergency department, or • Take the person to a GP, or • Call Samaritans on 116 123 4. If the person is consuming alcohol or drugs, try to discourage them from taking any more. 5. Try to ensure that the person does not have easy access to some means to take their life 6. Encourage the person to talk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen without judgement • Be polite and respectful • Do not deny the person's feelings • Do not try to give advice • Give reassurance that help is available and that their future has other options <p>(Adult Mental Health First Aid Programme)</p>
Self-harm	<p>Self-harm is when an individual hurts themselves as a way of dealing with very difficult feelings, painful memories or overwhelming situations and experiences. Some people have described self-harm as a way to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • express something that is hard to put into words • turn invisible thoughts or feelings into something visible • change emotional pain into physical pain • reduce overwhelming emotional feelings or thoughts • have a sense of being in control • escape traumatic memories • have something in life that they can rely on • punish themselves for their feelings and experiences • stop feeling numb, disconnected, or dissociated • create a reason to physically care for themselves • express suicidal feelings and thoughts without taking their own life.

After self-harming, an individual may feel a short-term sense of release, but the cause of the distress is unlikely to have gone away. Self-harm can also bring up very difficult emotions and could make the individual feel worse. Even though there are always reasons underneath someone hurting themselves, it is important to know that self-harm does carry risks. Once an individual has started to depend on self-harm, it can take a long time to stop.

Ways people self-harm can include:

- cutting
- poisoning
- over-eating or under-eating
- exercising excessively
- biting
- picking or scratching skin
- burning skin
- inserting objects into the body
- hitting self or walls
- misusing alcohol, prescription, and recreational drugs
- pulling hair
- having unsafe sex
- getting into fights

Any difficult experience can cause someone to self-harm. **Common reasons include:**

- pressures at school or work
- bullying
- money worries
- sexual, physical, or emotional abuse
- bereavement
- homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia
- breakdown of a relationship
- loss of a job
- an illness or health problem
- low self-esteem
- an increase in stress
- difficult feelings, such as depression, anxiety, anger, or numbness

Whether someone tells you directly, or you suspect that someone is hurting themselves, it can be difficult to know what to say and how best to approach the situation. Try not to panic or overreact. The way you respond will have an impact on how much they open up to you and other people about their self-harm in the future. Remember that self-harm is usually someone's way of managing very hard feelings or experiences, and that in the majority of cases it is different to suicidal feelings.

What helps:

- Try to be non-judgmental
- Let the person know that you are there for them
- Relate to them as a whole person, not just their self-harm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try to have empathy and understanding about what they are doing• Let them be in control of their decisions• Offer to help them find support• Remind them of their positive qualities and things they do well• Try to have honest communication, where you take responsibility for any fears you have <p>What does not help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trying to force change• Acting or communicating in a way that threatens to take control away from the individual• Either ignoring their injuries or overly focusing on them• Labelling self-harm as 'attention seeking' <p>(North Staffs MIND)</p>
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Appendix 2 – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 Specific Safeguarding Issues

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)</p>	<p>Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.</p>
<p>Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)</p>	<p>Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting, or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others. Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.</p>
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</p>	<p>CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or nonpenetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside clothing.</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet.</p> <p>CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may happen without the child’s immediate knowledge e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media. CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.</p>
Mental Health	<p>All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem.</p> <p>Education staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children’s experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education. Schools and colleges can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the mental health and behaviour in schools’ guidance, colleges may also wish to follow this guidance as best practice. Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary school teachers to promote positive health, wellbeing, and resilience among children. See Talking about things that matter to young people - Rise Above for links to all materials and lesson plans. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following their child protection policy, and speaking to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy.</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>Peer on peer abuse including sexual violence and harassment</p>	<p>All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer-on-peer abuse). And that it can happen both inside and outside of school or college and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of peer-on-peer abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports. All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in their schools or colleges it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such it is important if staff have any concerns regarding peer-on-peer abuse they should speak to their Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy). It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it. Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying) • Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’) • physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse); • sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence); • sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes, and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse; • 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; • consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery); • up-skirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm;

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element). <p>All staff should be clear as to the school's or college's policy and procedures with regards to peer-on-peer abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.</p>
Serious Violence	<p>All staff should be aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation. All staff should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines</p>
Child abduction and community safety incidents	<p>Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends, and acquaintances); and by strangers. Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation. As children get older and are granted more independence (for example, as they start walking to school on their own) it is important they are given practical advice on how to keep themselves safe. Many schools provide outdoor-safety lessons run by teachers or by local police staff. It is important that lessons focus on building children's confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers. Further information is available at: www.actionagainstabduction.org and www.clevernevergoes.org.</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
Children and the court system	Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age-appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year-olds and 12-17-year-olds. The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers.
Children missing from education	All staff should be aware that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and can also be a sign of child criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation, 'honour'-based abuse, or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Staff should be aware of their school's or college's unauthorised absence and children missing from education procedures.
Children with family members in prison	Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation, and poor mental health. The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders, NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>County lines</p>	<p>County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line.’ This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store, and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children’s homes, and care homes. Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. A number of the indicators for CSE and CCE as detailed above may be applicable to where children are involved in county lines. Some additional specific indicators that may be present where a child is criminally exploited through involvement in county lines are children who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ go missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home; ▪ have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime); ▪ are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs; ▪ are exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging,’ where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection; ▪ are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a ‘trap house or cuckooing’ or hotel room where there is drug activity; ▪ owe a ‘debt bond’ to their exploiters; ▪ have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing. <p>Further information on the signs of a child’s involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the Home Office and The Children’s Society County Lines Toolkit for Professionals</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism</p>	<p>Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual exploitation • forced labour • slavery • servitude • forced criminality • removal of organs <p>Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Cybercrime</p>	<p>Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either ‘cyber-enabled’ (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or ‘cyber dependent’ (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Cyber-dependent crimes include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ unauthorised access to computers (illegal ‘hacking’), for example accessing a school’s computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded; ▪ denial of Service (Dos or DDoS) attacks or ‘booting.’ These are attempts to make a computer, network, or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources; and, ▪ making, supplying, or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets, and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above. <p>Children with particular skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy), should consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme.</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>This is a nationwide police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working with regional and local policing. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests. Note that Cyber Choices does not currently cover ‘cyber-enabled’ crime such as fraud, purchasing of illegal drugs on-line and child sexual abuse and exploitation, nor other areas of concern such as on-line bullying or general on-line safety. Additional advice can be found at: Cyber Choices, ‘NPCC- When to call the Police’ and National Cyber Security Centre - NCSC.GOV.UK</p>
<p>Domestic abuse</p>	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional, and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be “personally connected” (as defined in section 2 of the 2021 Act). Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. The government will issue statutory guidance to provide further information for those working with domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, including the impact on children. All children 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. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.</p> <p>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.’</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>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). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support. The Act’s provisions, including the new definition, will be commenced over the coming months.</p> <p>Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when the police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy)) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child’s circumstances and can enable immediate support to be put in place, according to the child’s needs. Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, the police and/or schools should make a referral to local authority children’s social care if they are concerned about a child’s welfare. More information about the scheme and how schools can become involved is available on the Operation Encompass website. Operation Encompass provides an advice and helpline service for all staff members from educational settings who may be concerned about children who have experienced domestic abuse. The helpline is available 8AM to 1PM, Monday to Friday on 0204 513 9990 (charged at local rate).</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
Homelessness	<p>Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child’s welfare. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse, and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property.</p> <p>Whilst referrals and/or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children’s social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live.</p> <p>The following factsheets usefully summarise the new duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homeless Reduction Act Factsheets. The new duties shift focus to early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible before they are facing a homelessness crisis. In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16- and 17-year-olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children’s social care will be the lead agency for these children and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child’s circumstances. ▪ The Department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16- and 17-year-olds who may be homeless and/or require accommodation.

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>So-called ‘honour’-based abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)</p>	<p>So called honour-based abuse encompasses incidents and crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving ‘honour’ often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take.</p> <p>All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.</p> <p>If staff have a concern regarding a child who might be at risk of HBA or who has suffered from HBA, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy). As appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children’s social care.</p> <p>Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers that requires a different approach (see following section). FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.</p> <p>FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers, along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.</p> <p>Those failing to report such cases may face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be</p>

	<p>examining pupils or students, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at: Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information.</p> <p>Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school’s or college’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) and involve children’s social care as appropriate.</p> <p>The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures. The following is a useful summary of the FGM mandatory reporting duty: FGM Fact Sheet. Further information can be found in the multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation and the FGM resource pack particularly section 13.</p> <p>Female genital mutilation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Forced Marriage</p>	<p>Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage.</p> <p>Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some perpetrators use perceived cultural practices as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.</p> <p>The Forced Marriage Unit has published statutory guidance and multi-agency guidelines, pages 32-36 of which focus on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fm@fcdo.gov.uk.</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>Preventing radicalisation</p>	<p>Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. ▪ Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. ▪ Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause. <p>There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised.</p> <p>As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral. The school's or college's Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral.</p>
<p>Child-on-Child Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges</p>	<p>Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children 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.</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>Children 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 school or college.</p> <p>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. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.</p> <p>A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.</p> <p>Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk. Staff should be aware of the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ challenging inappropriate behaviours; ▪ making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up; ▪ not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter,” “part of growing up,” “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys;” ▪ challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts, and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. <p>Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.</p>
<p>What is sexual violence and sexual harassment?</p>	<p>Sexual violence It is important that school and college staff are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way and that it can happen both inside and outside of school/college. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual violence offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:</p>

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
	<p>Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus, or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.</p> <p>Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.</p> <p>Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (Schools should be aware that sexual assault covers a very wide range of behaviour so a single act of kissing someone without consent or touching someone's bottom/breasts/genitalia without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.)</p> <p>Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally causes another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.)</p> <p>What is consent? Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. Someone consents to vaginal, anal, or oral penetration only if s/he agrees by choice to that penetration and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice.</p> <p>Sexual consent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity; ▪ the age of consent is 16; ▪ sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

Specific Safeguarding Issue	Indicators of Abuse and Neglect
<p>Sexual harassment and Harmful sexual behaviour</p>	<p>When referring to sexual harassment we mean ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline and both inside and outside of school/college. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child-on-child sexual harassment.</p> <p>Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child’s dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance, and calling someone sexualised names; ▪ sexual “jokes” or taunting; ▪ physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes (schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos, or drawings of a sexual nature; and ▪ online sexual harassment. <p>This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. It may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos. <p>As set out in UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (which provides detailed advice for schools and colleges) taking and sharing nude photographs of under-18s is a criminal offence;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ sharing of unwanted explicit content; ▪ up-skirting (is a criminal offence) ▪ sexualised online bullying; ▪ unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media; ▪ sexual exploitation ▪ coercion and threats. <p>Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) can occur online and/or face-to-face and can also occur simultaneously. Behaviour ranges from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive, and violent and may cause developmental damage.</p>

	<p>Sexual behaviour between children can be considered harmful if one of the children is much older, particularly if there is more than two years' difference or if</p> <p>one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other is not. However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them, for example, if the older child is disabled or smaller in stature.</p> <p>HSB can, in some cases, progress on a continuum. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children displaying HSB have often experienced their own abuse and trauma. It is important that they are offered appropriate support.</p>
<p>Up-skirting</p>	<p>The Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, which is commonly known as the Up-skirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019.</p> <p>'Up-skirting' is where someone takes a picture under a persons' clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any sex, can be a victim.</p>

Appendix 3 – Further Information

Abuse

- [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)
- [Action on Elder Abuse](#)
- [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
- [Domestic abuse: how to get help](#)
- [Faith based abuse: National Action Plan](#)
- [Forced marriage resource pack](#)
- [Relationship abuse: disrespect nobody](#)
- [Respond \(abuse, violence and trauma support for individuals with learning disabilities\)](#)
- [Women's Aid Federation of England and Wales](#)

Bullying

- [Preventing bullying including cyberbullying](#)
- [Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)

Children and the courts

- [Advice for 5-11 year olds witnesses in criminal courts](#)
- [Advice for 12-17 year old witnesses in criminal courts](#)

Children missing from education, home, or care

- [Children missing education](#)
- [Child missing from home or care](#)
- [Children and adults missing strategy](#)

Children with family members in prison

- [National Information Centre on Children of Offenders](#)

Child Exploitation

- [Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners](#)
- [Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery](#)
- [Trafficking: safeguarding children](#)
- [County Lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults](#)
- [PACE: Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

Drugs

- [Drugs: advice for schools](#)
- [Drugs strategy 2017](#)
- [Information and advice on drugs](#)
- [ADEPIS platform sharing information and resources for schools: covering drug \(and alcohol\) prevention](#)

(so called) Honour Based Violence

- [Female genital mutilation: information and resources](#)
- [Female genital mutilation: multi agency statutory guidance](#)
- [Forced marriage: statutory guidance and government advice](#)

Health and Wellbeing

- [Fabricated or induced illness: safeguarding children](#)
- [Rise Above: Free PSHE resources on health, wellbeing and resilience](#)
- [Medical conditions: supporting pupils at school](#)
- [Mental health and behaviour](#)

Homelessness

- [Homelessness: How local authorities should exercise their functions](#)
- [Sexting: responding to incidents and safeguarding children](#)
- [UK Council for Child Internet Safety](#)

Private fostering

- [Private fostering: local authorities](#)

Radicalisation

- [Prevent duty guidance](#)
- [The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2006](#)
- [Prevent duty self-assessment tool for schools](#)
- [Educate Against Hate website](#)
- [Education and Training Foundation Prevent for FE and Training](#)
- [ACT for Youth: Run, Hide, Tell](#)
- [Protecting Children from Radicalisation](#)

Violence

- [Gangs and youth violence: advice for schools and colleges](#)
- [Ending violence against women and girls 2016 to 2020 strategy](#)
- [Violence against women and girls: national statement of expectations for victims](#)
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)
- [Serious violence strategy](#)
- [Rape Crisis Federation of England and Wales](#)
- Stop Hate Crime Helpline 0800 138 1625

Up-skirting

- [Upskirting know your rights](#)

Domestic Violence

- Mens Advice Line 0808 801 0327
- National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 999 5428

- National 24hr Freephone Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Various other safeguarding links

- [Working together to safeguard children 2015](#)
- [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#)
- [Ann Frank Trust](#)
- [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#)
- [Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education 2022](#)
- [Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board Procedures \(online\)](#)
- [Disqualification under the Child Care Act 2006](#)
- [The Children Act 1989 and 2004](#)
- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- [Education Act 2011](#)
- [Care Act Factsheet](#)
- [Children Act 2004](#)
- [Every child matters](#)
- [The Human Rights Act 2000](#)
- [Health, Safety at Work Act 1974](#)