

Annex to City of Sunderland College Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy - March 2020

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting and within the UK in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

This annex sets out some of the adjustments the College is making in line with the changed arrangements in the College and following advice from government and local agencies.

The current position is that, following the Government announcement, all college sites are closed and timetables have been postponed for most students. The College remains open for vulnerable students and those whose parents/carers are key workers. Sites open for these students are Bede Campus and Kirkley Hall.

Despite the changes, the College's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: the welfare of children and young people always comes first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and referrals should continue to be made in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

The pressures on children, young people and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures for a variety of reasons, including through having to stay within the household, through financial hardship or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in terms of setting any work for students to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning and ability to access on line resources). Staff may be aware of the mental health of both students and their parents or carers, and should refer to safeguarding about any emerging concerns.

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable students and individual arrangements have been made for these students. These students can continue to attend college campuses (whilst we are able to remain open) for face to face support with curriculum work as well as wider support needs. In addition, the following protocols are in place:

For students' subject to a Child Protection Plan and Child In Need Plan, and who have an allocated social worker: contact will be made by the Intensive Support team weekly with these students in agreement with the family and social worker.

For students who are Looked after Children and recent Care Leavers: contact will be made by the Intensive Support Team weekly (or more often as agreed by student, carer and social worker).

For students with an EHCP: Learning Support Mentors will maintain regular contact as agreed with student and parents / carers. Support can be delivered through individual arrangements based on curriculum activity.

For other safeguarded students identified as high risk: contact will be made by the Intensive Support team once per week for a welfare check. The Student Progress and Development/Tutorial Mentor team will also be contacting students to ensure the necessary level of support is offered.

Students in receipt of counselling provision: the Senior Student Counsellor and counselling team will continue with counselling provision with a minimum of fortnightly contact with students (as determined by student need and arrangements previously in place). Referrals can continue to be made during this period.

NB Contact will be made remotely through telephone calls.

Reporting arrangements:

The College arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

The Strategic Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Vikkie Morton: 07770656488**. Contact details are below for the Safeguarding Team.

Location	DSO / DSL	Contact Details
Sunderland College and Hartlepool Sixth Form safeguarding@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk safeguarding@hartlepoolsixth.ac.uk	Tracey Seed	Duty Phone City: 07785 419 300
	Peter Snowball	Duty Phone Bede: 07785 419 309
	Julie Henderson	Duty Phone Washington: 07785 419 766
	Bev Blackstone	Duty Phone Hartlepool: 07785419420
	Nicola Warburton	07944 093 401
	Ruth Magnus	07810 607 832
Northumberland College safeguarding@northumberland.ac.uk	Jonathan Bell	Duty Phone Ashington: 07739 516 066
	Martin Sexton	07718 124 614
	Sheila Jenkins	Duty Phone Kirkley Hall: 07507 773 870
	Siobhan Armstrong	Duty Phone Halls of Residence: 07507 773 957
	Martin Sexton	07718 124 614
	Jen Bell	07957 308 931

We will be operating during normal business hours, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. The safeguarding team will also supervise LiveChat for any student queries/concerns Monday-Friday 10am-2pm via the College website. There is also a Designated Safeguarding Officer on site Monday-Friday.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged.

Staff will continue to follow the safeguarding procedures and advise the safeguarding team immediately about concerns they have about any child, whether in college or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Staff should continue to log safeguarding concerns via MyConcern and use the contact details above staff have difficulty accessing remotely. My Concern and the email addresses are monitored by the safeguarding team during office hours.

Normal safeguarding procedures apply for referrals to children's services. This contact will go through a member of the safeguarding team (listed above) who will follow appropriate measures in seeking the appropriate and necessary support. Out of hours guidance can be found in Appendix 9.3.

Should a child or young person be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the College will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure, available here:

Hartlepool: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/worried-about-a-child/>

Northumberland: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/What-can-I-do-if-I-suspect-a-child-or-young-person.aspx>

Sunderland: <https://www.safeguardingchildrensunderland.com/p/professionals-information-and-resources-1/how-to-make-a-referral-to-childrens-services>

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements in place, young people could be at greater risk of online abuse. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.

Any agency staff or volunteers working with students during college closure will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

New staff or volunteers

All new starters must have an online induction which will include Safeguarding and Prevent training and familiarisation with all relevant policies and procedures. The DSL will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child or young person and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures. All new starters or volunteers need to confirm that they have read Part I and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a college closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age or developmental stages. When contacting these families, our staff may ask about relationships between learners.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The College may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when students are learning at the College. The College continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place. The College has taken on board the guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium.

It is extremely important that professional boundaries do not slip during this exceptional period and protocols for on line working have been issued. Staff have been issued with remote and home working guidance.

Staff can access further guidance here:

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-10-safeguarding-rules-teachers-home>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely/>

Students should be reminded of the importance of staying safe online and been provided with information. They have access to stay safe icons on VLE if they have concerns, as well as information on how to contact relevant staff if required.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/internet-connected-devices/>

Mental Health

Restrictions to movement and contact with other people means pupils are more likely to be at risk of mental health problems. College should make students and their families aware of where further support can be found.

The Department for Education have produced guidance to support parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The following organisations can also provide support:

www.kooth.com – *Free online emotional wellbeing and counselling with self-help articles*

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/>

Calm Harm App – A phone app providing help for those who use self-harm as a coping strategy;

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will receive information about keeping students safe online with peers, the College and the wider internet community. We have set out the College's approach, including key sites students will be asked to access and who from the College (if anyone) their student is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online o UK Safer Internet Centre
- advice for parents and carers

Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre.