

# Annex to Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

## COVID-19 changes to our Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

1 APRIL 2020

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak. Many young people are now at home and staffing is likely to be significantly affected through illness and self-isolation.

Despite the changes, the college's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy is fundamentally the same: children, young people and vulnerable adults always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the Safeguarding Team in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

### **safeguarding procedure.**

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the college and following [advice from government](#) and local agencies.

### **The current school position and local advice**

The college campuses are currently closed and students are being supported to engage in learning via online platforms. Vulnerable learners have been risk assessed by the relevant teams and support continues to be provided for these learners in order to meet needs remotely. Details of which has been shared with the relevant agencies.

### **Reporting arrangements**

The college arrangements continue in line with our child and vulnerable adult protection policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Tracey Baron**, [t.baron@nelson.ac.uk](mailto:t.baron@nelson.ac.uk)

The Deputy DSLs are: **Leyanne Fitzmaurice**, [l.fitzmaurice@nelson.ac.uk](mailto:l.fitzmaurice@nelson.ac.uk) & **Helen Gray** [h.gray@nelson.ac.uk](mailto:h.gray@nelson.ac.uk)

To report a safeguarding concern please contact the safeguarding team as per policy through:

[staysafe@nelson.ac.uk](mailto:staysafe@nelson.ac.uk) email address for non-urgent matters.

Where you have urgent safeguarding concerns please contact the team via the safeguarding mobiles below between the hours of:

Monday – Thursday 8.40am-5.00pm

Friday 8.40am-4.30pm.

Accrington – 07803658861

Nelson – 07392195338

Staff will continue to follow the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection procedure and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any child or vulnerable adult, 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.

Children's and Adult services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority. The arrangements for contacting children's services are:

call 0300 123 6720 or out of hours 0300 123 6722.

Should a child in the college's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the college will immediately follow:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419604/What to do if you re worried a child is being abused.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)].

The arrangements for contacting adult social care are:

call: 0300 123 6721

### **Identifying vulnerability**

The college have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children and adults. The Safeguarding and ALS teams have evaluated the associated risk of college closure and the level of support required for individual learners.

We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following groups:

- Looked After Children – Are to be supported remotely by the safeguarding team, weekly contact has been established and feedback to the virtual schools is in place.
- Previously Looked After Children – Are to be supported remotely by the safeguarding team, weekly contact has been established and feedback to Lancashire virtual school has been requested and is in place.
- Children subject to a child protection plan – Are to be supported remotely by the safeguarding team, weekly contact has been established, Social worker approval has been gained and regular feedback is in place.
- Children who have, or have previously had, a social worker - Are to be supported remotely by the safeguarding team, weekly contact has been established,
- Children and vulnerable adults with an EHCP – Are being supported remotely by the Additional Learning Support Team, weekly contact has been established and regular feedback is in place with relevant third parties as required.

- Children on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker – Are to be supported remotely by the safeguarding team, weekly contact has been established, Contact is in place with Children’s Social Care.
- Other children the college considers vulnerable. More children may be added to this group in response to concerns raised with the DSL. - Are to be supported remotely by the safeguarding team, weekly contact has been established.

The child or vulnerable adults plan has been discussed with other agencies involved in their care, including where appropriate their social worker and the Virtual School Head for Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

### **Holiday arrangements**

Vulnerable Children and adults will continue to be offered the support stated above through the holiday period, the safeguarding team remain contactable during working hours.

### **Attendance**

Where a child or vulnerable adult is expected to engage in remote learning and does not the Head of Division will contact the family. If contact is not possible and there are safeguarding concerns the Safeguarding team must be informed. The Safeguarding Team will attempt a range of methods to contact the child/vulnerable adult and parent or carers but if necessary will arrange a home visit by the college or another appropriate agency. A risk assessment will be undertaken to consider manage the implications of COVID-19 alongside other risks perceived to the child or vulnerable adult. The risk of COVID-19 **does not override** the duty on the college to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe.

### **Staff will be aware of increased risk**

The pressures on children, vulnerable adults and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, [poverty](#), and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for children and adults to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of [children](#), vulnerable adults their [parents and carers](#), informing the Safeguarding Team about any concerns.

### **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.

### **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 children were learning at the college.

- The college continues to ensure [appropriate filters and monitors are in place](#)
- Our governing body will [review arrangements](#) to ensure they remain appropriate
- The college has taken on board guidance from the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) on safe remote learning and guidance for [safer working practice](#) from the Safer Recruitment Consortium. We have reviewed the code of conduct and information sharing policy accordingly.
- Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the school's code of conduct and importance of using school systems to communicate with children and their families.
- Staff have read the [20 safeguarding considerations for livestreaming](#) prior to delivering any livestreamed sessions
- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the college, [Childline](#), the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) and [CEOP](#).
- Parents and carers have received information about keeping children safe online with peers, the college, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. Parents have been offered the following links:
  - [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - [London Grid for Learning](#) - 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
  - [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](#).

### **Allegations or concerns about staff**

With such different arrangements young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. 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.

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

Lancashire – Tim Booth – [Tim.booth@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.booth@lancashire.gov.uk) – 01772 536694

If necessary, the college will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, and to the Teacher Regulation Agency in line with paragraph 166 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 using the address [Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk](mailto:Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk).

### **New staff**

New starters must have an induction this will be in the form of mandatory online safeguarding training and they must read the college child and vulnerable adult protection policy, the behaviour policy, the whistleblowing policy and the code of conduct. The DSL or deputy will ensure new recruits know who to contact if worried about a child and ensure the new starters are familiar with the child protection procedure.

This policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 02.04.2020 and is available on the college websites:

[www.nelson.ac.uk](http://www.nelson.ac.uk)

[www.accross.ac.uk](http://www.accross.ac.uk)

[www.lal.ac.uk](http://www.lal.ac.uk)



**Amanda Melton**  
**Principal & Chief Executive**