

Policy No: 22 Safeguarding–Child Protection Policy

Coordinator	Executive Operations Manager
Review Frequency	Annually
Policy First Issued	2014
Last Reviewed	Summer Term 2017
Date policy considered by External HR Consultant	N/A
Date policy considered by External Solicitor	N/A
Agreed by Governors and adopted on	16th May 2017
Does this policy need to be agreed by Governors? If yes, which committee	Yes, Board of Governors
Due for Review	Summer Term 2018
This policy is communicated by the following means:	
Governors	Governor consultation by email when policy reviewed and agreement
Staff	Policy folders on staff shared drive and in-house training
Parents	Academy website, Parent Evenings
Students	Academy website, Assemblies, In lessons

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated safeguarding lead	Senco Mr T Hayes	UTC
Designated safeguarding senior leader	Mr. T Hayes	UTC
Nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection	Ms D Smith	UTC
Chair of governors	Mrs D Smith	UTC
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Paul Startup/Amanda Glover	07825 782793
SPOA – Single Point of Advice	<p>To make a referral to children’s services you need to contact the countywide SPOA service</p> <p>SPOA 01323 464222;</p> <p>0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk / GCSX_</p> <p>0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gcsx.gov.uk</p>	

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

CONTENTS

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy	4
Appendix A: The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead	11
Appendix B: Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedure	13
1 Definitions	13
2 Categories of abuse	13
3 Specific safeguarding issues	18
4 Recognition – what to look for	18
5 Allegations of abuse made against other children	18
6 Safeguarding Children Continuum of Need	20
7 What action to take if you have concerns about a child	22
8 Dealing with a disclosure made by a child – advice for all members of staff	23
9 Discussing concerns with the family and the child – advice for the DSL	24
10 Early help for children and families	24
11 Children’s-Social-Care-led responses to concerns about a child	25
12 Information sharing and consent	25
13 Record keeping	27
14 Professional challenge and disagreements	27
15 Safer recruitment	28
16 Procedure for managing allegations of abuse made against college staff members	28
Appendix C:	
MANAGING ALLEGATIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN FLOW CHART	30

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
- 1.2. Our students' welfare is our paramount concern. The governing body will ensure that our college will safeguard and promote the welfare of students and work together with other agencies to ensure that our college has adequate arrangements to identify, assess and support those children who are suffering or likely to suffer harm.
- 1.3. Our college is a community and all those directly connected, staff members, governors, parents, families and students, have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure.

2 OUR ETHOS

- 2.1 We believe that our college should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual.
- 2.2 We recognise the importance of providing an environment within our college that will help our students feel safe and respected. We recognise the importance of enabling students to talk openly and to feel confident that they will be listened to.
- 2.3 We recognise that all adults within the college, including permanent and temporary staff, volunteers and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our students from harm.
- 2.4 We will work with parents to build an understanding of the college's responsibilities to ensure the welfare of all our students, including the need for referrals to other agencies in some situations.

3 SCOPE

- 3.1 In line with the law, this policy defines a child as anyone under the age of 18 years.
- 3.2 This policy applies to all members of staff in our college, including all permanent, temporary and support staff, governors, volunteers, contractors and external service or activity providers.

4 THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained colleges and further education institutions (including sixth-form colleges) to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions relating to the conduct of the college are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are students at the college. Section 157 of the same Act places a similar duty on non-maintained and independent colleges, including free colleges and academies.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 4.2 Under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, all maintained colleges, further education colleges and independent colleges, including free colleges and academies, are required to cooperate with the local authority to improve the well-being of children in the local authority area.
- 4.3 Under section 14B of the Children Act 2004, the Local Safeguarding Children Board can require a college or further education institution to supply information in order to perform its functions. This must be complied with.
- 4.4 This policy and the accompanying procedure have been developed in accordance with the following statutory guidance and local safeguarding procedures:
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children, March 2015*
 - *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, March 2015*
 - [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#)

5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 The college's lead person with overall responsibility for child protection and safeguarding is the SENCO/DSL. The DSL's responsibilities are described in Appendix A.

The DSL will be part of our college's leadership team and their role of DSL will be explicit in their job description. This person should have the appropriate authority and be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters, to take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings – and/or to support other staff to do so – and to contribute to the assessment of students.

- 5.2 The college has a **nominated governor** responsible for safeguarding to champion good practice, to liaise with the Principal and to provide information and reports to the governing body.
- 5.3 The **case manager for dealing with allegations** of abuse made against college staff members is the Principal. The case manager for dealing with allegations against the Principal is the chair of governors. The procedure for managing allegations is detailed in Appendix B.
- 5.4 The **Principal** will ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented and sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable staff members to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities.
- 5.5 The **governing body** is collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the college's ethos and reflected in the college's day-to-day practice.
- 5.6 **All staff members, governors, volunteers and external providers** know how to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse, how to respond to students who disclose abuse and what to do if they are concerned about a student.

6 SUPPORTING CHILDREN

- 6.1 We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence are likely to have low self-esteem and may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helpless, humiliated and some sense of blame. Our college may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 6.2 We accept that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.
- 6.3 Our college will support all students by:
- ensuring the content of the curriculum includes social and emotional aspects of learning;
 - ensuring a comprehensive curriculum response to e-safety, enabling children and parents to learn about the risks of new technologies and social media and to use these responsibly;
 - ensuring that child protection is included in the curriculum to help children stay safe, recognise when they do not feel safe and identify who they might or can talk to;
 - providing students with a number of appropriate adults to approach if they are in difficulties;
 - supporting the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence;
 - encouraging development of self-esteem and self-assertiveness while not condoning aggression or bullying;
 - ensuring repeated hate incidents, e.g. racist, homophobic or gender- or disability-based bullying, are considered under child protection procedures;
 - liaising and working together with other support services and those agencies involved in safeguarding children; and
 - monitoring children who have been identified as having welfare or protection concerns and providing appropriate support.

7 CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURE

- 7.1 We have developed a structured procedure in line with [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#) which will be followed by all members of the college community in cases of suspected abuse.

This is detailed in Appendix B.

- 7.2 In line with the procedures, the relevant Children's Services Duty and Assessment Team will be notified as soon as there is a significant concern.
- 7.3 The name of the DSL will be clearly advertised in the college, with a statement explaining the college's role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected abuse.
- 7.4 We will ensure all parents and carers are aware of the responsibilities of staff members to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students by publishing the policy and procedures on our website and by referring to them in our introductory college materials.

8 RECORD KEEPING

- 8.1 All child protection and welfare concerns will be recorded and kept in line with the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges \(September 2016\)](#).

The guidance should be read alongside [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2015\)](#).

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 8.2 We will continue to support any student leaving the college about whom there have been concerns by ensuring that all appropriate information, including child protection and welfare concerns, is forwarded under confidential cover to the student's new school/college as a matter of priority.

9 SAFER WORKFORCE AND MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- 9.1 We will prevent people who pose risks to children from working in our college by ensuring that all individuals working in any capacity at our college have been subjected to safeguarding checks in line with the statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, March 2015*.
- 9.2 We will ensure that agencies and third parties supplying staff provide us evidence that they have made the appropriate level of safeguarding checks on individuals working in our college.
- 9.3 Every job description and person specification will have a clear statement about the safeguarding responsibilities of the post holder.
- 9.4 We will ensure that at least one member of every interview panel has completed safer recruitment training.
- 9.5 We have a procedure in place to handle allegations against members of staff and volunteers in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, March 2015*.

This procedure is detailed in Appendix B.

10 STAFF INDUCTION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 10.1 All new members of staff, including newly-qualified teachers and teaching assistants, will be given induction that includes basic child protection training on how to recognise signs of abuse, how to respond to any concerns, e-safety and familiarisation with the safeguarding and child protection policy, staff code of conduct, *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, Part One, March 2015* and other related policies.
- 10.2 The induction will be proportionate to staff members' roles and responsibilities and will include, at a minimum, the online child protection training provided by the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board.

This training can be accessed from [Czone](https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/partnerships/trust/workingtogether/childprotection/training/Pages/main.aspx) at <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/partnerships/trust/workingtogether/childprotection/training/Pages/main.aspx>

- 10.3 The DSL will undergo updated child protection training every two years.
- 10.4 All staff members of the college will undergo live safeguarding and child protection training (whole-college training) which is regularly updated and at least every three years. All governors must undergo governor specific online awareness training at least every two years.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 10.5 Staff members who miss the whole-college training will be required to undertake other relevant training to make up for it, e.g. by joining another school/college's whole-school/college training.
- 10.6 The nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection will undergo live Governor Services training prior to or soon after appointment to the role; this training will be updated every three years.
- 10.7 We will ensure that staff members provided by other agencies and third parties, e.g. supply teachers and contractors, have received appropriate child protection training commensurate with their roles before starting work. They will be given the opportunity to take part in whole-college training if it takes place during their period of work for the college.
- 10.8 The DSL will provide an annual briefing to the college on any changes to child protection legislation and procedures and relevant learning from local and national serious case reviews.
- 10.9 The college will maintain accurate records of staff induction and training.

11 CONFIDENTIALITY, CONSENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

- 11.1 We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- 11.2 The Principal or the DSL will disclose any information about a student to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis only.
- 11.3 All staff members must be aware that they cannot promise a student to keep secrets which might compromise the student's safety or well-being.
- 11.4 All staff members have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
- 11.5 All our staff members who come into contact with children will be given appropriate training to understand the purpose of information sharing in order to safeguard and promote our student's welfare.
- 11.6 We will ensure that staff members are confident about what they can and should do under the law, including how to obtain consent to share information and when information can be shared without consent. This is covered in greater detail in Appendix B.

12 INTER-AGENCY WORKING

- 12.1 We will develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, including agencies providing early help services to children, the police and Children's Social Care.
- 12.2 We will ensure that relevant staff members participate in multi-agency meetings and forums, including child protection conferences and core groups, to consider individual children.
- 12.3 We will participate in serious case reviews, other reviews and file audits as and when required to do so by the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board. We will ensure that we have a

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

clear process for gathering the evidence required for reviews and audits, embedding recommendations into practice and completing required actions within agreed timescales.

13 CONTRACTORS, SERVICE AND ACTIVITY PROVIDERS AND WORK PLACEMENT PROVIDERS

- 13.1 We will ensure that contractors and providers are aware of our college's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures. We will require that employees and volunteers provided by these organisations use our procedure to report concerns.
- 13.2 We will seek assurance that employees and volunteers provided by these organisations and working with our students have been subjected to the appropriate level of safeguarding check in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, March 2015*. If assurance is not obtained, permission to work with our students or use our college premises may be refused.
- 13.3 When we commission services from other organisations, we will ensure that compliance with our policy and procedures is a contractual requirement.

14 WHISTLE-BLOWING AND COMPLAINTS

- 14.1 We recognise that students cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff members fail to do so.
- 14.2 We will ensure that all staff members are aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. If necessary, they will speak with the Principal, the chair of the governing body or with the Local Authority Designated Officer.
- 14.3 We have a clear reporting procedure for children/students, parents and other people to report concerns or complaints, including abusive or poor practice.
- 14.4 We will actively seek the views of students, parents and carers and staff members on our child protection arrangements through surveys, questionnaires and other means.

15 SITE SECURITY

- 15.1 All staff members have a responsibility to ensure our buildings and grounds are secure and for reporting concerns that may come to light.
- 15.2 We check the identity of all visitors and volunteers coming into college. Visitors are expected to sign in and out in the office visitors' log and to display a visitor's badge while on the college site. Any individual who is not known or identifiable will be challenged for clarification and reassurance.
- 15.3 The college will not accept the behaviour of any individual, parent or anyone else, that threatens college security or leads others, student or adult, to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse the person access to the college site.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

16 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 16.1 We will ensure that systems are in place to monitor the implementation of and compliance with this policy and accompanying procedures. This will include periodic audits of child protection files and records by the DSL
- 16.2 We will complete an audit of the college's safeguarding arrangements at frequencies specified by the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board and using the audit tool provided by them for this purpose.
- 16.3 The college's senior management and the governing body will ensure that action is taken to remedy without delay any deficiencies and weaknesses identified in child protection arrangements.

17 POLICY REVIEW

- 17.1 This policy and the procedures will be reviewed every academic year. All other linked policies will be reviewed in line with the policy review cycle.
- 17.2 The DSL will ensure that staff members are made aware of any amendments to policies and procedures.

18 LINKED POLICES AND PROCEDURES

- 18.1 The following policies and procedures are relevant for the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedure.

Model policies from c-zone include:

- Administration of Medicines Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Children Missing from Education Policy and Procedures
- Complaints procedure
- Drug and Alcohol Education Policy
- E-safety Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Keeping Records of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns: Guidance for Early Years Settings, Colleges and Colleges
- Health and Safety Policy and other linked policies and risk assessments
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Offsite Activities and Educational Visits Policy and risk assessments
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Physical Education and Sports Guidance
- Positive Handling and Physical Intervention Policy and Guidance
- Premises Inspection Checklist
- PSHEe Policy
- Student Images Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy and procedures
- Teachers' Standards, Department for Education guidance available on [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk)
- Sex and Relationship Education Policy
- Social Media Policy

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy
- Staff code of conduct/behaviour policy
- Work Experience Handbook

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

APPENDIX A

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

1 MANAGING REFERRALS

- 1.1 Refer all cases of suspected abuse to East Sussex Children's Social Care and to the Police if a crime may have been committed.
- 1.2 Liaise with the Principal about safeguarding issues relating to individual students, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- 1.3 Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members on matters of child protection and safeguarding.
- 1.4 Liaise with agencies providing early help services and coordinate referrals from the college to targeted early help services for students in need of support.

2 RECORD KEEPING

- 2.1 Keep written records of child protection and welfare concerns in line with East Sussex Local Safeguarding Board guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges \(September 2016\)](#).
- 2.2 Ensure a stand-alone file is created as necessary for students with safeguarding concerns.
- 2.3 Maintain a chronology of significant incidents for each student with safeguarding concerns.
- 2.4 Ensure such records are kept confidentially and securely and separate from the student's educational record.
- 2.5 When a student leaves our college, the DSL will make contact with the DSL at the new college and will ensure that the child protection file is forwarded to the receiving school/college in an appropriately agreed manner. We will retain evidence to demonstrate how the file has been transferred; this may be in the form of a written confirmation of receipt from the receiving college and/or evidence of recorded delivery. Where a parent elects to remove their child from the college roll to home educate, the college will make arrangements to pass any safeguarding concerns to ISEND – Teaching and Learning Provision.

3 INTER-AGENCY WORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING

- 3.1 Cooperate with Children's Social Care for enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- 3.2 Attend, or ensure other relevant staff members attend, child protection conferences, core group meetings and other multi-agency meetings, as required.
- 3.3 Liaise with other agencies working with the student, share information as appropriate and contribute to assessments.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

4 TRAINING

- 4.1 Undertake appropriate training, **updated every two years**, in order to
- be able to recognise signs of abuse and how to respond to them, including special circumstances such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, fabricated or induced illness (see chapter 8 of the [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#));
 - understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, e.g. the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Continuum of Need guidance and tools and the early help planning processes;
 - have a working knowledge of how the local authority conducts initial and review child protection case conferences and contribute effectively to these; and
 - be alert to the specific needs of children in need (as specified in section 17 of the Children Act 1989), those with special educational needs, pregnant teenagers and young carers.
- 4.2 Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the college's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures, including providing induction on these matters to new staff members.
- 4.3 Organise whole-college child protection training for all staff members at least **every three years**. Ensure staff members who miss the training receive it by other means, e.g. by joining another college's training.
- 4.4 Link with East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board to identify appropriate training opportunities for relevant staff members.
- 4.5 Ensure the college allocates time and resources every year for relevant staff members to attend training.
- 4.6 Encourage a culture of listening to students and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any action the college takes to protect them.
- 4.7 Maintain accurate records of staff induction and training.

5 AWARENESS RAISING

- 5.1 Review the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures annually and liaise with the college's governing body to update and implement them
- 5.2 Make the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures available publicly and raise awareness of parents that referrals about suspected abuse may be made and the role of the college in any investigations that ensue.
- 5.3 Provide an annual briefing to the college on any changes to child protection legislation and procedures and relevant learning from local and national serious case reviews.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

6 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 6.1 Monitor the implementation of and compliance with policy and procedures, including periodic audits of child protection and welfare concerns files (at a minimum once a year).
- 6.2 Complete an audit of the college's safeguarding arrangements at frequencies specified by the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- 6.3 Provide regular reports, to the governing body detailing changes and reviews to policy, training undertaken by staff members and the number of students with child protection plans and other relevant data.
- 6.4 Take lead responsibility for remedying any deficiencies and weaknesses identified in child protection arrangements.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

APPENDIX B

Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedure

1 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **Abuse**, including neglect, is a form of maltreatment. A person may abuse a child by inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm. Children may be abused within their family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by a stranger.
- 1.2 **Children** are any people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday; a 16-year-old, whether living independently, in further education, in the armed forces or in hospital, is a child and is entitled to the same protection and services as anyone younger.
- 1.3 **Child protection** is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and refers to activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.
- 1.4 **Early help** means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years to teenage years.
- 1.5 **Harm** is ill treatment or impairment of health and development, including impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.
- 1.6 **Safeguarding children** is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children \(March 2015\)](#) as:
- protecting children from maltreatment;
 - preventing impairment of children's health and 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.
- 1.7 **Significant harm** is the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in the family in the best interests of the child. Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 states 'where the question of whether harm suffered by a child is significant turns on the child's health or development, his health or development shall be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.'
- 1.8 For more definitions, see [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#).

2 CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

- 2.1 **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such that it causes severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:
- making a child feel worthless, unloved or inadequate
 - only there to meet another's needs
 - inappropriate age or developmental expectations
 - overprotection and limitation of exploration, learning and social interaction
 - seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another, e.g. domestic abuse
 - making the child feel worthless and unloved - high criticism and low warmth
 - serious bullying

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- exploitation or corruption

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

2.2 **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born, it may involve a parent failing to:

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

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

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

2.4 **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Activities may involve physical contact, including penetration of any part of the body, or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children looking at or in the production of sexual images, including on the internet, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Child sexual exploitation is also sexual abuse; it involves children and young people receiving something, for example accommodation, drugs, gifts or affection, as a result of them performing sexual activities, or having others perform sexual activities on them. It could take the form of grooming of children, e.g. to take part in sexual activities or to post sexual images of themselves on the internet.

3 SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

3.1 College staff members need to be aware of specific safeguarding issues and be alert to any risks. Chapter 8 of the [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#) has detailed information about specific issues such as child sexual exploitation, fabricated or induced illness, female genital mutilation, private fostering, etc., and the local procedures to respond to risks.

3.2 The government website, [GOV.UK](#), has broad government guidance on a variety of issues. The following is not a comprehensive list and staff members should search the GOV.UK website and the *Pan-Sussex Procedures* for advice on other issues.

- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- bullying including cyberbullying
- domestic violence
- drugs
- fabricated or induced illness
- faith abuse
- female genital mutilation (FGM)

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- forced marriage
- gangs and youth violence
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- mental health
- private fostering
- preventing radicalisation and the Prevent duty
- sexting
- teenage relationship abuse
- trafficking

3.3 Further information on Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Teachers and college staff are more likely to see victims on a regular basis than almost any other professional. They will notice recurrent or prolonged absences and significant changes in behaviour. The use of the 'chronology' in the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children's Board guidance – Keeping Records of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns: Guidance for Early Years, Colleges and Colleges – will enable these patterns to be identified. They are key to identifying children at risk and raise concerns at an early stage, to potentially halt the grooming process before sexual exploitation has begun. Teachers will highlight concerns about missing children as they may be at risk of child sexual exploitation.

Due to the nature of the grooming methods used by their abusers, it is very common for children and young people who are sexually exploited not to recognise that they are being abused. Practitioners should be aware that young people particularly aged 17 and 18 may believe themselves to be acting voluntarily and will need practitioners to work with them so they can recognise that they are being sexually exploited.

As much as possible it is important that the young person is involved in decisions that are made about them.

Link to LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation procedures;

http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sex_exploit.html

Link to DfE 'What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually abused': This should be read in conjunction with statutory guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-being-sexually-exploited>

Link to DfE Statutory Guidance outlining how organisations and individuals should work together to protect young people from sexual exploitation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance>

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

Attention is drawn to: The WISE project: A specialist project working with and supporting young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation in East Sussex.

Contact the WiSE Project on:

07793 325649

Or email:

wise@sussexcentralymca.org.uk

3.4 Further information on Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There is a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child or young person. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject. Staff should activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care.

Warning signs that FGM may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can be found on pages 16-17 of the Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines referred to below.

The DFE Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines, chapter 9 (page 42)

Guidelines for college, colleges and universities sets out how staff can make a difference; 'Girls who are threatened with, or who have undergone FGM may withdraw from education, restricting their educational and personal development. They may feel unable to go against the wishes of their parents and consequently may suffer emotionally. Staff may become aware of a student because she appears anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn. They may be presented with a sudden decline in her performance, aspirations or motivation. There may be occasions when a student comes to college or college but then absents herself from lessons, possibly spending prolonged periods in the bathroom.

Students who fear they may be at risk of FGM can often come to the attention of, or turn to, a teacher, lecturer or other member of staff before seeking help from the police or social services. Sometimes the student's friends report it to staff. Teachers, lecturers and other members of staff are in an ideal position to identify and respond to a victim's needs at an early stage'

Link to DFE multi agency practice guidelines for female-genital-mutilation (June 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-guidelines>

3.5 Further information on Preventing Radicalisation

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, which received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015, places a duty on specified authorities, including local authorities and childcare, education and other children's services providers, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). This guidance will be updated further to reflect the implications of the Prevent duty, which is expected to come into force later in 2015.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 will also place a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must include the local authority and chief officer of the local police. Panels will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, following a referral from the police and where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals. The Act will require partners of

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

Channel panels to co-operate with the panel in the carrying out of its functions and with the police in undertaking the initial assessment as to whether a referral is appropriate.

Colleges and colleges which are required to have regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education are listed in the Act as partners of the panel. The relevant provisions of the Act will come into force on 12 April 2015 but many local authorities already have Channel panels set up in their area. An East Sussex Channel Panel has been set and links to information and training can be found here;

<http://intranet.escc.gov.uk/sites/ASC/StaffInfo/subject/SAAR/Pages/PREVENT.aspx>

Channel Training

'Channel' is the name for the process of referring a person for early intervention and support, including:

- identifying people at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk, and
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the people concerned.
- The Channel process is about safeguarding children, young people and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from risk before a crime occurs.
- You can complete a short general awareness course online here:
- http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html
- Prevent is the pan-Sussex strategy for preventing vulnerable people from being radicalised into violent extremism:
- The pan Sussex Prevent describes partner's (including colleges) role in the Prevent agenda:
- Sharing with colleagues
- Promote awareness of the PREVENT strategy within your organisation and partners, including the local risks, roles and responsibilities involved in its delivery
- Ensure colleagues and partners are aware of how to report any potentially relevant information or concerns
- Promote an understanding amongst colleagues and partners of how to identify indicators of terrorism
- Promote an understanding amongst colleagues and partners of how to identify potential signs of individual vulnerability to radicalisation.
- Indicators of terrorist activity

Link to East Sussex Violent extremism prevent guidance and Operational guidance for Adult Social Care and Children's Services

<http://intranet.escc.gov.uk/sites/ASC/StaffInfo/subject/SAAR/Pages/PREVENT.aspx>

The Department for education has published The Prevent duty Departmental advice for colleges and childcare providers at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

East Sussex LSCB; Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy for colleges to be available on CZONE August 2015.

3.6 Self-harm and suicidal behaviour

Definition - Self harm, self mutilation, eating disorders, suicide threats and gestures by a child must always be taken seriously and may be indicative of a serious mental or emotional disturbance.

Refer to the Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for guidance on recognition, reporting and a child presenting at college.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_self_harm_suicidal.html

4 RECOGNITION – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- 4.1 Staff members should refer to the detailed information about the categories of abuse and risk indicators in the [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#) for further guidance.
- 4.2 In an abusive relationship, the child may:
- appear frightened of their parent(s)
 - act in a way that is inappropriate to their age and development, although full account needs to be taken of different patterns of development and different ethnic groups
- 4.3 In an abusive relationship, the parent or carer may:
- persistently avoid child health services and treatment of the child's illnesses
 - have unrealistic expectations of the child
 - frequently complain about or to the child and fail to provide attention or praise
 - be absent
 - be misusing substances
 - persistently refuse to allow access on home visits by professionals
 - be involved in domestic violence and abuse
 - be socially isolated
- 4.4 Serious case reviews have found that parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health problems, sometimes referred to as the 'toxic trio', if they coexist in a family could mean significant risks to children. Problems can be compounded by poverty, frequent house moves or eviction.

5 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST OTHER CHILDREN

- 5.1 At our college we believe that all children have a right to attend college and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the college and other students.

We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the college's Behaviour Policy.

- 5.2 Safeguarding allegations

Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by others in the college, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a student, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older student and refers to their behaviour towards a younger student or a more vulnerable student
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other students in the college
- indicates that other students may have been affected by this student

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- indicates that young people outside the college may be affected by this student

5.3 Examples of safeguarding issues against a student could include:

Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

- blackmail or extortion, threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting

Sexual Exploitation

- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

In areas where gangs are prevalent, older students may attempt to recruit younger students using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

5.4 Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards students from other students

On occasion, some students will present a safeguarding risk to other students. The college should be informed that the young person raises safeguarding concerns, for example, they are coming back into college following a period in custody or they have experienced serious abuse themselves.

These students will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other students are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.

5.5 What to do

When an allegation is made by a student against another student, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the DSL should be informed.

A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.

The DSL should contact DAT to discuss the case. It is possible that Children's Social Care are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a statement of referral where appropriate.

The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both students' files.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim).

Where neither Children's Social Care nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough college investigation should take place into the matter using the college's usual disciplinary procedures.

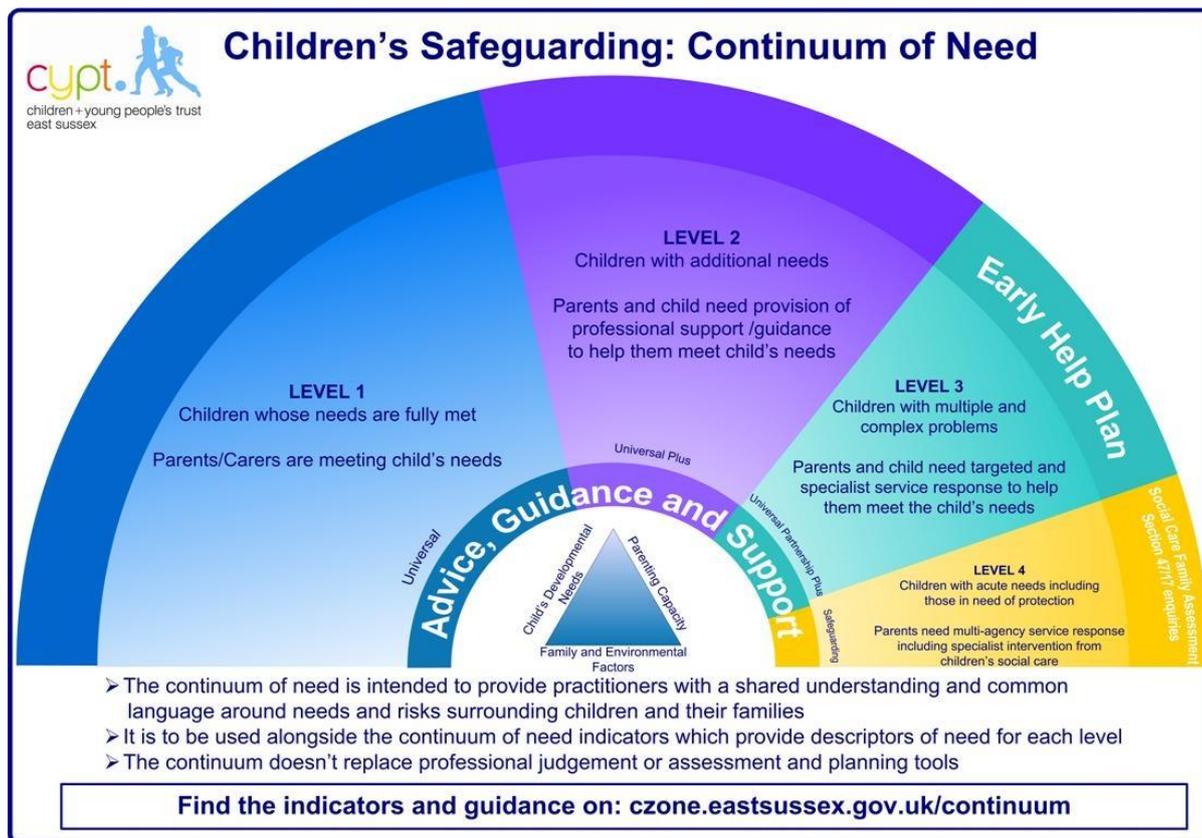
In situations where the college considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.

The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.

6 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN CONTINUUM OF NEED

- 6.1 The Safeguarding Children Continuum of Need has been developed so that everyone working with children in East Sussex has a common language for understanding the needs and risks surrounding children and their families.
- 6.2 For example, if the college has concerns about a child and needs advice or support from a Duty and Assessment social worker, they will use the Continuum of Need as a guide to understand the college's concerns and provide advice about what to do or to decide whether the child and family need social care involvement. The Continuum of Need does not replace professional judgement, but it is intended to support decision-making and discussions between services and practitioners.
- 6.3 It is important that staff members are familiar with the Continuum of Need tool. It comes in two parts – a windscreen tool showing levels of need (see below) and an indicator tool describing a range of conditions about the child and family that the college (and other practitioners the college has discussions with) can use to identify their level of need.
- 6.4 The Continuum of Need tool, including the windscreen and indicators, and detailed guidance are available on [Czone](#).
- 6.5 The Continuum of Need shows that a child's or family's additional needs can be on a range from none to very high, and that needs can shift from early help to child protection and back to preventative early help. It covers children whose needs are increasing as well as children whose needs are decreasing after Children's Social Care involvement. The Continuum of Need will help practitioners to identify the right level of support for the child in the least intrusive way while keeping the child safe.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy



6.6 The Continuum of Need identifies four levels of need.

Level 1:

- children who are achieving expected outcomes
- their needs are met by their parents and by accessing universal services such as health and education
- they do not have additional needs

Level 2:

- children with additional needs
- parents need professional support or guidance to help them meet their children's needs
- extra support can usually be provided by agencies that already know the family, e.g. their pre-college, college or college or NHS community services such as Health Visiting

Level 3:

- children with multiple and complex needs
- children and parents need targeted early help or specialist services to meet the children's needs
- needs are met through multi-agency support and the use of Early Help Plans

Level 4:

- children with acute needs, including those in need of protection
- children and parents need multi-agency responses which include specialist intervention from Children's Social Care through the family assessment process

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 6.7 By referring to the Continuum of Need and indicators, the college can identify when assessment and support for a child and family need 'stepping up' to a referral to Social Care and when the needs of a child and their family have been reduced enough for them to be 'stepped down' to early help services.

7 WHAT ACTION TO TAKE IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A STUDENT

Staff member	What action to take if you have concerns
Any member of staff, governor, volunteer, contractor or activity provider	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss your concerns with the DSL Mr Hayes, or in their absence, with the Director of Inclusion Mr Q Gunderson, as soon as possible, before the student leaves for the day. It is important that the student is not sent home at the end of the day without taking the right protective action. 2. Complete the child protection incident/welfare concern form and pass it to the DSL. 3. If the DSL or the director is not available, you should inform the Principal. If no-one is available you should contact the Children's Social Care Duty and Assessment Team yourself for a consultation about the action you need to take. Inform the DSL about your consultation and what actions you have taken.
Designated safeguarding lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are concerned that the student is at risk of significant harm (Level 4 of the Continuum of need) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Contact the relevant Duty and Assessment Team immediately. 1.2 If you believe that the student is in immediate danger, or you suspect a crime has been committed, you must also contact the police immediately. 1.3 If the Duty and Assessment Team accepts your contact as a referral, send them a completed statement of referral (available from the Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures website) within 24 hours. 1.4 The Duty and Assessment Team may decide, in discussion with you, that the student's needs are at Level 2 or 3 of the Continuum of Need and the college is better placed to provide support. See points 2.5 and 2.6 below for further action. 1.5 Record all your discussions and decision-making on the child protection incident/welfare concern form sent by the staff member who contacted you originally. Add it and a copy of the statement of referral to the student's file. If the student does not have a stand-alone child protection file, you will need to create one including a front sheet. Update or start the chronology. Continue to update the child's file and chronology as the investigation and the resulting work carry on. 2. You believe the child is not at risk of significant harm, but the child or their family may need support (Level 2 or 3 of the Continuum of Need) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Use the Continuum of Need tool to identify the level of need.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

	<p>2.2 Discuss your concerns with senior colleagues in another agency, if necessary.</p> <p>2.3 Contact the Duty and Assessment Team for a consultation, without necessarily identifying the child in question, in order to develop an understanding of the child's needs and circumstances.</p> <p>2.4 If the Duty and Assessment Team accepts your contact as a referral for social care assessment, send them a completed statement of referral within 24 hours, as above.</p> <p>2.5 If your consultation results in the decision that the child and family are in need of help at Level 2 or 3 of the Continuum of Need, provide additional support in the college and/or refer the child or their family to other agencies providing early help services.</p> <p>2.6 Record all your consultations and decision-making on the child protection incident/welfare concern form sent by the staff member who contacted you originally. Update or start the chronology and add referral letters and forms to the student's file; create a stand-alone file including a front sheet, if one does not exist. Continue to update the file, including the chronology, as work progresses.</p>
--	--

8 DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE MADE BY A STUDENT – ADVICE FOR ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF

If a student discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff or volunteer should follow this guidance.

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Only ask questions when necessary to clarify.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the student to talk freely – do not put words in the student's mouth.
- Reassure the student that what has happened is not his or her fault.
- Do not make promises that you may not be able to keep.
- Do not promise confidentiality – it may be necessary to refer the student to Children's Social Care.
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell.
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator.
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told.
- Inform the DSL without delay.
- Complete the child protection incident/welfare concern form and pass it to the DSL.
- Dealing with a disclosure from a student and safeguarding issues can be stressful. Consider seeking support for yourself and discuss this with the DSL.

9 DISCUSSING CONCERNS WITH THE FAMILY AND THE STUDENT – ADVICE FOR THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

- 9.1 In general, you should always discuss any concerns the college may have with the student's parents. They need to know that you are worried about their child. However, you should not discuss your concerns if you believe that this would place the student at greater risk or lead to loss of evidence for a police investigation.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 9.2 **If you make a decision not to discuss your concerns with the student's parents or carers** this must be recorded in the student's child protection file with a full explanation for your decision.
- 9.3 **It is important to consider the student's wishes and feelings**, if age appropriate, as part of planning what action to take in relation to concerns about their welfare.
- 9.4 When talking to students, you should take account of their age, understanding and preferred language, which may not be English. It is also important to consider how a disabled student may need support in communicating.
- 9.5 How you talk to a student will also depend on the substance and seriousness of the concerns. You may need to seek advice from Children's Social Care or the police to ensure that neither the safety of the student nor any subsequent investigation is jeopardised.
- 9.6 If concerns have arisen as a result of information given by a student, it is important to reassure the student but not to promise confidentiality.
- 9.7 **It is expected that you discuss your concerns with the parents and seek their agreement to making a referral to Children's Social Care, unless you consider that this would place the student at increased risk of significant harm.**
- 9.8 **You do not need the parents' consent to make a referral if you consider the student is in need of protection**, although parents will ultimately be made aware of which organisation made the referral.
- 9.9 If parents refuse to give consent to a referral but you decide to continue, you need to make this clear to Children's Social Care.
- 9.10 **If you decide to refer the student without the parents' consent, make sure to record this with a full explanation of your decision.**
- 9.11 When you make your referral, you should agree with Children's Social Care what the student and parents will be told, by whom and when.
- 9.12 See section 11 below for guidance on information sharing and consent.

10 EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- 10.1 Most parents can look after their children without the need of help other than from their family or friends. However, some parents may need additional help from our college or other services such as the NHS. Providing help early is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.
- 10.2 Our college will work together with other agencies to provide a coordinated offer of early help, in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children 20135* and local guidance, to any student who needs it.
- 10.3 We will pool our knowledge within the college and with other agencies about which families or students need additional support in a range of ways so that we can work out how best to help them. We will use the [East Sussex Safeguarding Continuum of Need tool](#) to identify what level of need the student or their family has.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 10.4 We will work closely with targeted early help services and Children's Social Care if we feel families need more support and input, or students are at risk of harm, and we will continue to provide support if other services are also needed.
- 10.5 [Targeted early help services](#) are aimed specifically at helping families with children and young people whose needs are at Level 3 on the Continuum of Need. There are three main services in East Sussex:
- **Children's Centre Keywork and Health Visiting (for children aged 0 to 5 years)** work closely through the Good Start programme to agree what support is needed for families with children in this age range.
 - **Family Support Keywork Services (for children aged 5 to 13 years)** work across the county with colleges and academies to provide coordinated support for families. They are based on the previous Parent Support Advisor, COPES and Inclusive Learning Tutor services.
 - **Targeted Youth Support Service (for children and young people aged 11 to 19 years)** works closely with secondary colleges, academies and colleges.
- 10.6 Targeted support is also provided by family keyworkers in specialist services, for example Probation, Sussex Police, the ISEND, and by College Nurses and Family Support Health Practitioners. These services may lead a plan of support in a similar way to targeted early help services.
- 10.7 Our college will [refer any student with needs at Level 3 on the Continuum of Need](#) to a targeted early help service and work with the service in any early help planning they may undertake to support the student.
- 10.8 We will talk to the family about referral to a targeted early help service and explain that there may be a need to involve other professionals, including talking to a social worker about our concerns. We will seek the family's consent for the referral.
- 10.9 If the family does not consent to an early help service, we will make a judgement about whether the needs of the student will escalate or the student will become unsafe without help. If our judgement is that the needs or concerns will escalate, then we will contact the Children's Social Care Duty and Assessment Team in our area for a consultation with a qualified social worker in order to make a shared decision about whether the level of concerns calls for a referral to Children's Social Care.

11 CHILDREN'S-SOCIAL-CARE-LED RESPONSES TO CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

- 11.1 Once Children's Social Care has accepted our referral as needing a social-care-led response (Level 4 of the Continuum of Need), a senior social work practitioner and their manager will evaluate the concerns to identify the sources and levels of risk and to agree what protective action may be necessary.
- 11.2 The evaluation of concerns and risks involve deciding whether:
- the student needs immediate protection and urgent action is necessary; or
 - the student is suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm and enquiries need to be made under section 47 of the Children Act 1989; or
 - the student is in need and should be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 11.3 We will cooperate with Children's Social Care and the police in any emergency action they take using their legal powers for immediate protection of the student. This may involve removing the student from their home.
- 11.4 We will participate in any multi-agency discussions (strategy discussions), if invited to do so, and share information about the student and their family to plan the response to concerns.
- 11.5 We will share information about the student and their family for section 47 enquiries and family assessments undertaken by Children's Social Care.
- 11.6 We will ensure that a relevant staff member participates in all initial and review child protection conferences, if we are invited to attend. The staff member will work together with other agencies to discuss the need for and agree to an outcome-focused child protection plan and will ensure that the student's wishes and views are considered in their own right in planning.
- 11.7 If we are members of the core group to implement a child protection plan, we will ensure a relevant staff member participates in all core group meetings.
- 11.8 We will ensure that we complete all actions allocated to us as part of the outcome-focused plan, whether a child protection plan or a family support plan, in a timely way.
- 11.9 We will continue to monitor students once their plans are ended to ensure that they are supported and kept safe.

12 INFORMATION SHARING AND CONSENT

- 12.1 It is essential that people working with children can confidently share information as part of their day-to-day work. This is necessary not only to safeguard and protect children from harm but also to work together to support families to improve outcomes for all.
- 12.2 The college may have to share information about parents or carers, such as their medical history, disability or substance misuse issues, for investigations of child abuse carried out by Children's Social Care.
- 12.3 We will proactively seek out information as well as sharing it. This means checking with other professionals whether they have information that helps us to be as well informed as possible when working to support our students.
- 12.4 The Data Protection Act 1998 is not a barrier to sharing information. It is there to ensure that personal information is managed in a sensible way and that a balance is struck between a person's privacy and public protection.
- 12.5 We should be sharing any concerns we have with parents at an early stage, unless this would put a student at greater risk or compromise an investigation. Parents need to know what our responsibilities are for safeguarding and protecting children and that this involves sharing information about them with other professionals.
- 12.6 Be clear about the purpose of sharing confidential information and only share as much as you need to achieve your purpose.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 12.7 Try to get consent from parents (or the student, if they have sufficient understanding¹) to share information, if possible. However, **you do not need consent if you have serious concerns about a student's safety and well-being. If you decide to share information without consent, you should record this with a full explanation of your decision.**
- 12.8 **Consent should not be sought from parents or carers (or the student, if they have sufficient understanding), if:**
- it would place a student at increased risk of harm; or
 - it would place an adult at risk of serious harm; or
 - it would prejudice a criminal investigation; or
 - it would lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a student; or
 - required by law or a court order to share information.
- 12.9 **Consent is not necessary** in cases where Children's Social Care are making child protection enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Information needs to be shared with Children's Social Care; staff members must make sure to record what information has been shared.
- 12.10 **Consent is necessary**, for:
- Children's Social Care investigations or assessments of concerns under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Children's Social Care will assume that we have obtained consent from the parents to share information unless we make them aware that there is a specific issue about consent. This must be discussed with a social worker in the Duty and Assessment Team.
 - Early help assessments. Assessments are undertaken with the agreement of the student and their parents or carers.
- 12.11 If you are in any doubt about the need for seeking consent, get advice from the DSL or from the Children's Social Care Duty and Assessment Team.
- 12.12 Keep a record of your decision to share information, with or without consent, and the reasons for it. Remember also that it is just as important to keep a record of why you decided not to share information as why you did so.

13 RECORD KEEPING

- 13.1 Good record keeping is an important part of the college's accountability to students and their families and will help us in meeting our key responsibility to respond appropriately to welfare concerns about children.
- 13.2 Records should be factual, accurate, relevant, up to date and auditable. They should support monitoring, risk assessment and planning for students and enable informed and timely decisions about appropriate action to take.

¹ Children aged 12 or over may generally be expected to have sufficient understanding. Younger children may also have sufficient understanding. All people aged 16 and over are presumed, in law, to have the capacity to give or withhold their consent, unless there is evidence to the contrary.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

13.3 All staff members, governors, volunteers, contractors and activity providers should ensure that they record and report safeguarding concerns in line with guidance from the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) – [Keeping Records of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns: Guidance for Early Years Settings, Colleges and Colleges, January 2014.](#)

13.4 The DSL will ensure that records are maintained appropriately for students with safeguarding concerns and that stand-alone files are created and maintained in line with requirements of the above guidance.

14 PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE AND DISAGREEMENTS

14.1 Working with children and families, and in particular child protection work, is stressful and complex, as well as involving uncertainty and strong feelings. To ensure that the best decisions are made for our students, we need to be able to challenge one another's practice.

14.2 We will promote a culture within our college that enables all staff members to raise, without fear of repercussions, any concerns they may have about the management of child protection in the college. This may include raising concerns about decisions, action and inaction by colleagues about individual students. If necessary, staff members will speak with the designated safeguarding lead, the senior DSL, the Principal, the chair of governors or with the Local Authority Designated Officer.

14.3 Cooperation across agencies is crucial; professionals need to work together, using their skills and experience, to make a robust contribution to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare within the framework of discussions, meetings, conferences and case management.

14.4 If there are any professional disagreements with practitioners from other agencies, the DSL or the Principal will raise concerns with the relevant agency's safeguarding lead in line with guidance in the [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures.](#)

14.5 If the college disagrees with the child protection conference chair's decision, the DSL or the Principal will consider whether they wish to challenge it further and raise the matter with Children's Services Head of Safeguarding.

15 SAFER RECRUITMENT

15.1 Our college has robust recruitment and vetting procedures to help prevent unsuitable people from working with students.

15.2 Our job advertisements and application packs make explicit reference to the college's commitment to safeguarding children, including compliance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process and clear statements in the job description and person specification about the staff member's safeguarding responsibilities.

15.3 All staff members who have contact with children, young people and families will have appropriate pre-employment checks in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, March 2015.*

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- 15.4 At least one member on every short listing and interview panel will have completed safer recruitment training. The Principal is responsible for ensuring that safer recruitment training is kept up to date.
- 15.5 The Principal and the nominated governor for child protection are responsible for ensuring that our **single central record** is accurate and up to date.
- 16 PROCEDURE FOR MANAGING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS**
- 16.1 Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the wellbeing and very best outcomes for the students at our college. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.
- 16.2 Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse students.
- 16.3 We will take all possible steps to safeguard our students and to ensure that the adults in our college are safe to work with children. We will always ensure that the procedures outlined in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Colleges and Colleges, March 2015 are adhered to and will follow the flow chart in Appendix C.
- 16.4 If an allegation is made or information is received about an adult who works in our setting which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Principal immediately. Should an allegation be made against the Principal, this will be reported to the Chair of Governors. In the event that neither the Principal nor Chair of Governors is not contactable on that day, the information must be passed to and dealt with by either the member of staff acting as Principal or the Vice Chair of Governors.
- 16.5 The Principal or Chair of Governors will follow the flow chart in Appendix C. No member of staff or the governing body will undertake further investigations before receiving advice from the DAT or LADO.
- 16.6 Any member of staff or volunteer who does not feel confident to raise their concerns with the Principal or Chair of Governors should follow the flow chart in Appendix C and make the appropriate contact direct.
- 16.7 Supporting people:
- The college together with Children's Social Care and the police, if they are involved, will consider the impact on the student concerned and provide support as appropriate.
 - The Principal will ensure that the student and family are kept informed of the progress of the investigation.
 - The Personnel Advisory Team will be contacted at the earliest opportunity for advice in relation to the investigation of any allegation in line with the Councils' Disciplinary Policy, where appropriate.
 - The staff member who is the subject of the allegation will be advised to contact their union, professional association or a colleague for support, (depending on the outcome of the safeguarding strategy meeting which is normally chaired by the LADO).
 - The Personnel Advisory Team will ensure that the staff member is provided with appropriate support, if necessary, through occupational health or welfare arrangements.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

- The Principal will appoint a named representative to keep the staff member updated on the progress of the investigation; this will continue during any police or section 47 investigation or disciplinary investigation.
- 16.8 The college has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a student, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. The DBS will consider whether to bar the person. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our college, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the LADO and/or The Personnel Advisory Team.

Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy

Appendix C MANAGING ALLEGATIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN/STUDENTS

