

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

College of Animal Welfare

September 2019

INTRODUCTION

The College of Animal Welfare fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 157/175 of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for Colleges and Colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2018). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under part one of this document, which are set out below.

Staff should read the above document together with 'Annex A' of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2018) and 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners' (March 2015).

Through their day-to-day contact with learners and direct work with families all staff in the College have a responsibility to:

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

This policy sets out how the College discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are learners at the College. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the College including College advisory members. Teaching assistants, placement support staff, invigilators, office staff as well as academic staff who can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the College and its advisory members.

It is consistent with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

There are four main elements to our policy:

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

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

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

PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children are not employed.

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

1.0 PREVENTION

- 1.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.
- 1.2 The College will therefore:
 - 1.2.1 Establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe in both the real and the virtual world and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
 - 1.2.2 Ensure children know that there are adults in the College whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.
 - 1.2.3 Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse both in the real and the virtual world and information about who to turn to for help.
 - 1.2.4 Include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care and parenting skills

1.3 Prevention of Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying, cyberbullying, sexual violence, sexual harassment, being coerced to send sexual images (sexting), teenage relationship abuse and physical abuse.

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

The College will therefore:
- 1.3.2 Create a whole College protective ethos in which peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 1.3.3 Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to peer on peer abuse, including raising awareness of the gendered nature of peer abuse, with girls more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.
- 1.3.4 Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as an inevitable part of growing up.
- 1.3.5 Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.
- 1.3.6 Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), including teaching about consent.

1.3.7 Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of peer on peer abuse.

2.0 PROCEDURES

2.1 We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board 'Inter-Agency Procedures'. A copy of these procedures can be found on the LSCB website:

<http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/lscbprocedures/>.

2.2.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection is: Barbara Cooper

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

**Kim James
Mel Young**

**Claire Allott
Karen Hibell**

Claire Defries

2.3 The Designated lead will:

2.3.1 Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, (Designated Personnel, DP), the lead responsibility for child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.

2.3.2 Ensure that the role of DSL and DP is explicit in the role holder's job description.

2.3.3 Ensure that the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the College to carry out the duties of the post. Give the DSL the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, Annex B'). Ensure that the DSL and deputies have undertaken the two day training provided by the Education Child Protection Service and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.

2.3.4 Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DPs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via online learning ,bulletins, meetings or further reading **at least annually**.

2.3.5 Ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, knows who the Designated Personnel are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the **point of induction**.

'Staff members are required to log a concern via the electronic system and submit it to the DSL/DP immediately.

2.3.6 Ensure that the DSL or DP are always available (during College hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and DPs are not available.

2.3.7 Ensure every member of staff knows:

- the name of the designated person/s and their role;
- how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect;
- how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil;
- that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse; and for referring child protection concerns to the DSL/DP;
- that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn;
- where to find the Inter – Agency Procedures on the LSCB website;

2.3.8 Ensure all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. Ensure that staff training is regularly updated and that in addition to this training all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**.

2.3.9 Ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.

2.3.10 Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the College and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties on the College *website and VLE*.

2.3.11 Ensure that this policy is available publicly either via the College website

2.3.12 Where learners are educated off site or in alternative provision, the College and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by the College.

2.4 **Liaison with Other Agencies**

The College will:

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

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

2.4.3 Notify the relevant Social Care Unit immediately if:

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

2.4.4 When a learner subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new College immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Unit will also be informed.

2.5 **Record Keeping**

The College will:

- 2.5.1 Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately.
- 2.5.2 Ensure all paper records are kept securely, separate from the main learner file, and in a secure confidential electronic location.
- 2.5.3 Ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving College or establishment when a learner moves Colleges in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2018) and the 'Education Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance'. The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new College/College in advance of a child leaving.
- 2.5.4 Make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm.
- 2.5.5 Ensure all actions and decisions are be led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

2.6 **Confidentiality and information sharing**

2.6.1 The Data Protection Act 2018 does not prevent College staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

The College will:

- 2.6.2 Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.
- 2.6.3 Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information sharing;

Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

2.6.4 Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a pupil or parent they will refer the request to the DSL .

2.6.5 Ensure staff are clear with learners that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Personnel will:

2.6.6 Disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Parental consent may be required.

2.6.7 Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent if a person believes that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.

2.6.8 Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' July 2018)

2.6.9 Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, July 2018).

2.7 **Communication with Parents/Carers**

The College will:

2.7.1 Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the College and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the College prospectus/website.

2.7.2 Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency, unless the circumstances preclude this action.

2.7.3 Seek advice from Social Care if the College believes that notifying parents could increase the risk of harm to the child. Particular circumstances where parents **may not** be informed include any disclosure of sexual abuse or physical abuse where the child has an injury.

2.7.4 Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, record the reasons why. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if Child Protection proceedings commence, (see 2.6.1)

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

The College recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. Sexual violence may include rape, assault by

penetration or sexual assault. Sexual harassment refers to 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature', such as sexual comments, sexual taunting or physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone. Online sexual harassment may include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, unwanted sexual comments and messages, and sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

The College will:

- 2.8.1 Be clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 2.8.2 Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- 2.8.3 Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.8.4 Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.
- 2.8.5 Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.
- 2.8.6 Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- 2.8.7 Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.
- 2.8.8 Further guidance can be found in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five' (September 2018), 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in Colleges and Colleges,' (DfE, May 2018) and 'Sexting in Colleges and Colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people' published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)

3.0 SUPPORTING CHILDREN

The College recognises that **any** child may be subject to abuse and neglect and as such will support all children by:

- 3.1 Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- 3.2 Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community.
- 3.3 Applying the College's acceptable behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the learner but does not damage the learners's sense of self-worth. The College will ensure that the learner knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.

- 3.4 Liaising with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams.
- 3.5 Developing productive and supportive relationships with parents/carers.
- 3.6 The College recognises that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety, (contextual safeguarding). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for those:

3.6.1 Children with Disabilities, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs

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

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

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

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

3.6.2 Young Carers

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

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

3.6.3 Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and

money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

The College will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

The Designated Personnel will complete the LSCB Child Exploitation Checklist and refer to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

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

3.6.4 Children Frequently Missing Education

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

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

The College endeavors to hold more than one emergency contact for each learner to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

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

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/education-your-rights-and-responsibilities/school-attendance/>

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/procedures/children-from-abroad/>

A missing student concern is taken very seriously . At the same time the College needs to be careful that it does not breach student confidentiality . International students can be isolated and vulnerable, with their friends and family living thousands of miles away. They may have a limited command of English, and be unfamiliar with British customs. As such, requests from the families of international students should be dealt with particularly sympathetically; as family members may not appreciate the provisions of the Data Protection Act, or the College's position on confidentiality. Any unplanned absence that is

concerning should be immediately investigated by a member of the safeguarding team using the “Missing student risk assessment “ Investigations may include: emailing, telephoning and writing to the student, contacting their friends, housemates and fellow students, UK guardians or NOK and reviewing their social media activity. The designated safeguarding officer will work with relevant colleagues to find the student and assess the level of risk. If the Safeguarding Officer considers there to be grounds for concern about the student's wellbeing, they may contact the appropriate authority Education Welfare Officer and Social Care, UK Visas & Immigration or Police

If the location and wellbeing of the student still cannot be confirmed, the Designated Safeguarding lead will report the student as missing to the police and/or their Embassy. The Safeguarding Lead will be the main College point of contact for the police unless another contact is deemed more appropriate (such as the Vice Principal Academic Studies) College).

3.6.5 Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol

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

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

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

3.6.6 Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation

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

Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups. Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any

external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

The Designated Personnel will complete the LSCB Child Exploitation Checklist and refer to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

The College recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions (see 3.6.4).

3.6.7 Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers

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

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

This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

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

3.6.8 Children Living with Domestic Abuse

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

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

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. The College will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children living in domestic abuse

households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

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

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

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

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

3.6.10 Children who have returned home to their family from care

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

3.6.11 Children showing signs of Abuse and/or Neglect

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

The College will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A).

3.6.12 Children at Risk of Radicalisation

The College recognises that children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk forms part of the College's safeguarding response.

The Designated safeguarding lead will ensure that all staff have undertaken Prevent awareness training and training about the Prevent duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behavior which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. If appropriate the DSL will make a Channel referral.

3.6.13 Privately Fostered Children

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

The College will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements.

3.6.14 Children who have Family Members in Prison

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

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

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

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

4.0 PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

4.1 The College will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2018).

4.2 Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff will be reported straight away to the Principal. In cases where the Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the HR Manager. (See Allegations flowchart Appendix C.) The College will follow the procedures set out in Part four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2018).

- 4.3 The College will consult with the Local Authority Named Senior Officer in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', (2018) *and the College's Staff handbook*.
- 4.5 The Named Senior Officer will liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) ensuring that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. Following consultation with the LADO, the Named Senior Officer will advise on all further action to be taken. Please note that the Principal should **not** seek to interview the child/ren or members of staff involved until advice has been sought. Doing so may compromise any police interviews that may be necessary.
- 4.6 The College will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff is no longer employed at the College and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.
- 4.7 Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.
- 4.8 Consideration must be given to the needs of the child and a recognition that a child may make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen.
- 4.9 The College will ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with learners and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority's Code of Conduct. As part of the Induction process, all staff will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.
- 4.10 All staff have signed to confirm that they have read a copy of the Local Authority's Code of Conduct, 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (October 2015).
- 4.11 The College will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with learners aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).
- 4.12 The College will ensure that communication between learners and adults, by whatever method, are transparent and take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and are open to scrutiny.

5.0 OTHER RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 5.1 This policy links to our:

Anti-bullying policy
Attendance policy
Acceptable Behaviour policy
Complaints procedure
Equality ,Diversity and Inclusion policy
First Aid policy
Health and Safety policy
Lone Working policy
Online Safety and Acceptable Use policy
Protocol for children not collected from College at the end of the College day/activity
Safer Recruitment policy
Staff Code of Conduct/Safer Working Practice
Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
Whistleblowing policy

5.2 Use of Mobile Phones Policy

5.2.1 Our policy on use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the College has developed a policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers.

This policy was ratified on ...1st February 2019

and will be reviewed on ...1st February 2020

Signed by the Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a period at the end.

Four categories of abuse

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

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

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

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

It also includes parents or carers failing to:

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

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

It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

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

It may include:

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

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

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning

- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

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

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

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

This may involve:

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

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

Useful Contacts

Education Child Protection Service – ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Early Help Hub (EHH) Tel: 01480 376666

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – referrals and professional consultation Tel: 0345 045 1362

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

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit Tel: 101

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Tel: 01223 727967
Amanda Harrison
Lynn Chesterton

Named Senior Officer for allegations
Education Adviser - Chris Meddle Tel: 01223 703564
Education Adviser – Diane Stygal Tel: 01223 507115

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board – Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures
<https://www.cambslscb.co.uk/>

Relevant Documents

“Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006: statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained Colleges, academies and free Colleges” (July 2018)

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (October 2015)

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

“Keeping children safe in education: Statutory guidance for Colleges and Colleges” (Sep 2018)

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

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

“Sexting in Colleges and Colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) – (September 2016)

“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in Colleges and Colleges” (May 2018)

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

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

Managing an Allegation Against a Member of Staff in the College

Appendix C

