

Looked after Children (LAC), care leavers, 14-16s and learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

1. Purpose and content

The purpose of this appendix of the College Safeguarding Policy is to provide a clear set of guidelines to learners, their parent/carers; and staff and other workers within the College community; together with wider stakeholders regarding how the College will provide additional monitoring and support to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable. This includes Looked after Children (LAC), care leavers, learners under the age of 16 at the start of the academic year (Y10/Y11 or 14-16s) and learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

2. Looked After Children and care leavers

The College recognises the particular vulnerability of Looked after Children and those who have left care and has put the following actions in place:

- The Safeguarding Officer at each college location has oversight of all LAC and care leavers at their college campus. This includes maintaining a record for each learner that includes:
 - The name of their social worker or personal advisor as appropriate
 - The name and contact details of the local authority Virtual Lead (or Virtual Head) for each learner
 - Course details
 - Details of all agencies involved
 - Information about care arrangements
- The Local College Safeguarding Officer will ensure all other relevant staff, including, personal tutors and managers are aware of LAC and care leavers (where known to the College) on their site or provision by logging details centrally on Pro-Solution (for both groups). This information will then be imported to the Student's ILP in Pro-Monitor and be referenced in the Class Profile.
- The named Safeguarding Officer for each site will review the progress of each LAC/care leaver at least termly with the appropriate personal tutor and/or manager. Where concerns about progress are identified appropriate interventions must be implemented and reviewed in a timely way
- The named Safeguarding Officer for each site will ensure appropriate representation at Personal and Education Plan (PEP) or other meetings and the subsequent review of the online PEP system

- Concerns about safeguarding issues should be referred following the referral routes in Appendix A Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection

3. 14-16s

- The 14-16 Manager has oversight of all Y10/Y11 learners. This includes maintaining a record for each learner covering:
 - The name and contact details of their school where appropriate
 - Course and personal tutor details
 - Details of all agencies involved
- The 14-16 Manager will ensure all personal tutors and managers are aware of learners on their provision who are aged less than 16 at the start of the academic year and will ensure all staff are aware of the guidance and procedures that must be followed for this group of learners
- A flag will be added to the learners ILP in Pro-Monitor indicating 'Under 16', a second flag will be added to give the learners education status, 'Home Educated or School Educated'
- All staff involved with Y10/Y11 learners must adhere to the guidance and procedures; and also provide additional monitoring and support where needed. It must be noted that no 14-16 learner may be educated in a class where a learner is 19 years old at the beginning of the academic year. Exceptions to this are where a learner who is 19 years old has an EHCP. Where a learner aged 19 or above with an EHCP is likely to be in class, a risk panel must be convened to establish if any risks are mitigated as a result of the support assigned to either learner. See Appendix K for further information.
- Concerns about safeguarding issues should be referred to a Safeguarding Officer following the referral routes in Appendix A Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection; the 14-16 Manager must also be notified at the earliest opportunity

4. Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Research demonstrates that children with a disability are four times more likely to be abused and all children with a disability are classified as children in need. It is also widely recognised that those with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. These include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the learner's disability without further exploration
- The potential for learners with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers

All staff must be aware of, and consider, the above factors and any concerns about safeguarding issues should be referred to a Designated Person for safeguarding following the

referral routes in Appendix A Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection. If there is a safeguarding concern regarding a learner aged under 25 years of age who is in receipt of an Education and Health Care Plan and/or high needs funding, the Head of Foundation Skills must also be notified at the earliest opportunity.