

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.

The College Safeguarding Policy has been developed in line with statutory guidance and the locally agreed inter-agency procedures put in place by the Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board. The policy applies to all learners and all staff (including agency and hourly paid staff) irrespective of anyone's position or role in the College, together with Governors and any workers who are at the College on a voluntary/placement/other professional basis.

Please note that the term 'College' is used throughout this appendix, as a generic term that encompasses all organisations within the wider College group; namely Stockton Riverside College, Redcar & Cleveland College, NETA, Bede Sixth Form College, The Skills Academy and Tees Valley Catering. The term 'staff' is also used as a generic term that encompasses all groups of workers as outlined in the paragraph above.

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 College Safeguarding Officer has oversight of all LAC. 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 Deputy Designated Persons, 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 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person 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 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person 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 Skills Academy 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 Skills Academy 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
- All staff involved with Y10/Y11 learners must adhere to the guidance and procedures; and also provide additional monitoring and support where needed
- 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; the Skills Academy 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.