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**Safeguarding Governor: Vic Kempner**

## **SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY**

### **‘Safeguarding is Everybody’s Responsibility’**

We commit to ensuring that the East Sussex College Group and its Governing Body:

- Provides a safe environment for young people and vulnerable adults
- Identifies young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, and ensures they are kept safe
- Safeguards young people and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity.

The Governing Body will approve and annually review policies and procedures with the aim of:

- Raising awareness of issues relating to the welfare of young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable and promoting a safe environment for these students when learning within the College
- Aiding the identification of young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable who are at risk of significant harm, and providing procedures for reporting and addressing concerns
- Establishing procedures for reporting and dealing with allegations of abuse.
- Ensuring the safe recruitment of staff and the maintenance of a single central record.

- Ensuring that individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism are identified and are referred to the Prevent and Channel Coordinator for appropriate support.

In developing the policies and guidelines, the Governing Body will consult with, and take account of, guidance issued by the Department for Education and East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board, and other relevant bodies and groups. The Governing Body will act in accordance with guidance provided in the publication “Keeping Children Safe in Education” DFE-00248-2018 update published 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

This policy applies to all persons acting on behalf of or engaged in activities associated with the East Sussex College Group including, for example, members of the Governing Body, staff employed by the College group, visitors to and contractors working at College premises.

The East Sussex College Group Governing Body will appoint a Governor with specific responsibility for Safeguarding and Prevent. They can be contacted by email via the clerk to the corporation. Any concerns about the conduct of staff should be taken to the Director HR. Any concerns about the Principal(s), Director of HR or the Designated Safeguarding Lead should go to the Chair of Governors, via the clerk.

Following an update from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) (September 2017) regarding new safeguarding clauses in the funding agreements and contracts for 2017 to 2018, the Group is now required to make ESFA aware if it is the subject of an investigation by the local authority or the police. The Group’s Designated Safeguarding Lead will provide the required information by email.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The East Sussex College Group has a statutory and moral duty to ensure that the College(s) function with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable and who receive education and training at the College(s).

Throughout this policy and procedure reference is made to, “*young people and vulnerable adults*”. This term is used to mean “those under the age of 18” and adults who are or may become vulnerable over the age of 18. The Governing Body recognise that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse, accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to allegations of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people is a broader term than child protection. It includes protecting young people from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health or development and ensures young people can grow up in safe circumstances.

Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent young people suffering or likely to suffer, significant harm.

When operating this policy the East Sussex College Group uses the following accepted Governmental definitions of extremism and radicalisation which are:

*Extremism : ‘Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’.*

*Radicalisation: ‘the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism’.*

### **Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation**

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities college staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by learners of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of college, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where learners have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Learners accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental/carers reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting learners in other colleges or settings
- Learners voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives and glorifying violence, especially to other faiths and cultures
- Use of extremist or “hate” terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our EDI Commitment, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Making remarks about being at Extremist Events or Rallies outside college
- The sign in book which reports use of the multi faith room\*

\*The College acknowledges and respects that staff and students hold a variety of faiths and beliefs and therefore provides a multi faith room to enable users to pray and reflect during College opening hours. However, the College also recognises that such spaces can, on rare occasions, be used as an opportunity to promote extreme views and to radicalise others. The College therefore monitors the use of these areas by having access arrangements in place for those who wish to use the areas.

### **Promoting British Values**

In line with the expectations within the Prevent Duty (Counter Terrorism and Security Act June 2015) the college promotes fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This promotion takes place through:

- Lessons and progress reviews
- The manner in which students are treated by staff
- The election of student representatives and Student Union Officers
- The standards of behaviour and respect students are encouraged to adopt through the 'Student Code of Conduct'\*
- The underlying messages delivered to students at student representative meetings and the Student Union Committee meetings
- The displays in classrooms, corridors and across the College
- The manner and consistency with which students' views and behaviours are challenged should they conflict with this\*

\*Any students displaying such inappropriate behaviours will be reported to the Safeguarding Managers as appropriate at each individual campus.

### **Safer Recruitment**

All staff, including international host families, are subject to checks through the Disclosure and Barring service (DBS). This service carries out criminal record checks to identify unspent convictions of potential staff as per the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. In addition, staff will have two references requested prior to employment. Where suitability checks are delayed a risk assessment will be undertaken and staff will be unable to work unsupervised.

All staff are issued with the Staff Code of Conduct and professional boundaries form part of the Safeguarding element of the corporate Induction.

Staff working with under 18's should not place themselves, or their students, in vulnerable situations. Consideration must always be given to both the environment and the staff members own behaviour to minimise risk. Staff should avoid, where possible, lone working with a student.

### **Guest speakers and Visitors**

The East Sussex College Group values the opportunities presented by external speakers for students to experience diverse opinion and to enter into debate. This is seen as an essential part of both personal and academic development.

The College values the tradition of academic freedom and holds that no subject or belief should be excluded from reasonable, constructive discussion and debate.

The College values freedom of opinion and speech but recognises that, in the interests of the whole learning community, this must exist within formal guidelines.

The College recognises and supports the moral and legal frameworks of the society and community within which it works.

The College will not accept the use of language by external speakers that offends and is considered to be intolerant. Specifically, this means offensive “street”, misogynistic, misanthropic, sexual or racist language irrespective of context. Direct attacks on any religions or beliefs are not permitted.

The College will not tolerate any person who intentionally demeans individuals and groups defined by their ethnicity, race, religion and/or belief, sexuality, gender, disability, age or lawful working practices and which give rise to an environment in which people will experience, or could reasonably, fear harassment, intimidation or violence.

All visitors are required to report to Reception and any organisation requesting to distribute leaflets on campus must seek approval from the College Principal prior to distribution.

#### **Safeguarding students aged 14-16**

The College recognises the additional vulnerabilities of younger students however, overall responsibility for the safeguarding of 14-16 learners remains with the referring school or authority. This does not negate the responsibility placed on staff to act immediately and appropriately if a disclosure is made. Schools and Local Authorities must be informed immediately to ensure a collaborative and transparent approach.

The responsibility for safeguarding students who are electively Home Educated rests with the College and arrangements align with the arrangements for safeguarding full time students under 18.

#### **Workbased Learning**

All learners on Workbased Learning programmes receive an induction, which includes raising awareness of the College’s commitment towards Safeguarding including preventing extremism and radicalisation, details of the support services offered and contact details for the Safeguarding Team. The understanding of all aspects of Safeguarding, preventing extremism and radicalisation and safe working practices is checked at each review and the opportunity to discuss any issues is given. Assessments are made to ensure that the student’s well-being is safeguarded by the work placement assessors. The College has arrangements in place to ensure that, prior to work related work commencing:

- Pre-placement Health and Safety checks of employers’ premises and health and safety management arrangements are complete, including insurance details
- Employers are made aware of relevant College policies
- The requirements for DBS checks are assessed and the relevant processes undertaken where required

## **Work Experience**

All work placement providers will be given safeguarding information at the time of placement.

## **Partner Delivery (incl. East Sussex Music Academy)**

All learners on courses delivered by a Sussex Coast College partner receive details of the support services offered and contact details for the Safeguarding Team. The understanding of all aspects of Safeguarding including preventing extremism and radicalisation and safe working practices is checked at each partner review and the opportunity to discuss any issues is given. Assessments are made to ensure that the student's well-being is safeguarded by the staff in the Subcontracting Team. The College has arrangements in place to ensure that, prior to a course commencing:

- A risk assessment of the premises is carried out.
- All insurance documents are checked and copies taken.
- Partners are made aware of relevant College policies.
- Annual check of Safeguarding Policy to include Prevent Strategy.
- All staff in contact with learners under the age of 18 years are DBS checked and details monitored and updated as necessary.
- All delivery staff are required to complete Safeguarding and PREVENT training.

## **Out of hours trips**

'*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' highlights the need for 24 hour safeguarding support to be available when students are off-site and as such an emergency safeguarding number is issued when trips or visits will last longer than the average College day. The relevant Director of Curriculum will be the contact point for this and will liaise with the College Principal as required.

## **International & ESOL Students**

The College will ensure that for students where English is not their first language the induction on safeguarding is delivered so they gain a full understanding. There will be a strong focus on the promotion of values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## **Students with a learning difficulty or disability**

Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. The College will ensure that students who have a learning difficulty or disability are made fully aware of the safeguarding procedures during their Additional Learning Support assessment. This will ensure that the information is delivered and adapted so it is accessible and meets their individual need. Information on how to contact the safeguarding team will also be adapted when required; a safeguarding e-mail address is available. The expectation would be that

their learning support staff or Study Programme Tutor would act as their first line of contact. This is particularly important for those students with communication barriers.

All relevant College staff working with young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable will receive training which adequately familiarises them with safeguarding young person and adult issues, their responsibilities and relevant College guidelines and policies. These staff will receive refresher training every year. The College will ensure that in addition there are designated and trained senior management and safeguarding officers; these staff will receive training every year.

The College will refer concerns that a young person or vulnerable adult might be at risk of significant harm to appropriate external agencies.

### **Mental Capacity**

Students are deemed to have 'capacity' unless shown otherwise through a formal process.

### **Types of Abuse**

The Governing Body recognises the following as definitions of abuse: "Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act or it may occur when a young person or vulnerable adult is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent. Abuse can happen in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it" taken from guidance document '*Working Together to Safeguard Young People*' DFE-00195-2018 latest update published 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019. It is every young person and adult's right to live free from abuse in accordance with the principles of respect, dignity, autonomy, privacy and equity.

This could include young people and adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems, and people with a physical disability or impairment. Their need for additional support to protect themselves may be increased when complicated by additional factors, such as domestic violence, physical frailty or chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behaviour, drug or alcohol problems social or emotional problems, poverty or homelessness.

The following categories of abuse are not mutually exclusive and a young person or vulnerable adult may be subjected to more than one type of abuse at the same time, whatever the setting.

It is important to recognise that some young people or adults who are or may become vulnerable may reveal abuse themselves by talking about or drawing

attention to physical signs or displaying certain actions / gestures. This may be their only means of communication.

It is important for staff to be alert to these signs and to consider what they might mean. It is important that all staff are aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely, but not limited to, bullying, gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting.

## **Definitions of Abuse**

### **Physical Abuse**

- Hitting, slapping, scratching, shaking, throwing
- Pushing or rough handling
- Poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating
- Assault and battery
- Restraining without justifiable reasons
- Inappropriate and unauthorised use of medication
- Physical harm caused by feigning the symptoms of, or deliberately inducing injury in a young person or vulnerable adult
- Using medication as a chemical form of restraint
- Inappropriate sanctions including deprivation of food, clothing, warmth and health care needs

### **Sexual Abuse**

- Sexual abuse which involves forcing or enticing a young person or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the person is aware of what is happening, the risks involved or the consequences
- Rape or attempted rape
- Sexual assault and harassment
- Non-contact abuse e.g. voyeurism, exposing children to pornography, grooming (including via the internet), accessing or creating indecent images of children.

### **Psychological & Emotional Abuse**

- Persistent emotional maltreatment
- Emotional and verbal abuse
- Humiliation and ridicule which may convey that they are worthless, unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person
- Threats of punishment, abandonment, intimidation or exclusion from services
- Isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks
- Deliberate denial of religious or cultural needs



- Removing opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate
- Failure to provide access to appropriate social skills and educational development training
- Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations
- Interactions beyond the person's developmental ability, overprotection, limitation of exploration or learning, prevention of normal social interaction
- Seeing or hearing ill-treatment of another, serious bullying (including Cyber bullying) causing the person to frequently feel frightened or in danger
- Exploitation and corruption

### **Neglect and acts of omission**

- Failure to meet medical, physical care and psychological and emotional needs
- Failure to access care or equipment for functional independence
- Failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-givers or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- Failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services
- Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, heating, lighting and clothing (including exclusion from home or abandonment) etc.
- Failure to protect from physical or emotional harm or danger
- Failure to give prescribed medication
- Failure to give privacy and dignity
- Professional neglect

### **Financial**

- Misuse or theft of money
- Fraud and / or extortion of material assets
- Misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits
- Exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance

### **Discriminatory Abuse**

- Discrimination demonstrated on any grounds including sex, race, colour, language, culture, religion, politics or sexual orientation
- Discrimination that is based on a person's disability or age
- Harassment and slurs which are degrading
- Hate crime

### **Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation**

The Safeguarding procedure will raise staff awareness of the increased concerns of trafficking and sexual exploitation with reference to the Child Sexual Exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners' DFE- 00056- 2017 published 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### **Photography, Images and video**

Staff should not use personal devices such as mobile phones or cameras to take photos or videos of students and should only use work-provided equipment. Students will identify on their learning agreement as to whether they give consent for their photograph or video footage to be taken. Particular care should be taken when photographing 14-16 year olds or those in Supported Education. If concerned please seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **Bullying, including cyberbullying**

- Physical bullying is bullying that takes the form of physical abuse, such as pushing, shoving, hitting, fighting, spitting, and tripping.
- Emotional bullying is bullying that involves insults, derogatory remarks, name calling, and teasing. Also included are attempts to ostracize the victim, such as being left out or ignored, which is sometimes referred to as social bullying, as distinguished from verbal bullying. Emotional bullying can be done in person or through cyberbullying
- Face-to-face bullying is bullying in which students confront each other in person.
- Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online, through either email, chat rooms, social networking services, text messages, instant messages, website postings, blogs, or a combination of means. Cyberbullies may conceal their identity so that their victim experiences an anonymous attack.
- The content of cyberbullying can consist of all of the types of content including posting insulting and derogatory comments about someone or sending such comments to someone; sending mean or threatening messages; gossiping about someone online including posting sensitive or private information; impersonating someone in order to cast that person in a bad light; and excluding someone from an online page or group. Unwanted contact, also known as harassment, is another form of cyber bullying.
- Bullying is repeated and intentional behaviour and can have a devastating effect and must be addressed immediately.

### **Sexual Imagery (previously known as sexting)**

The Safeguarding procedure will raise staff and student's awareness of the implications self-generated indecent images can have and the procedures that need to be followed when deal with such cases in line with police guidelines

- The implications of opening offensive images on a computer;
- Images should never be viewed or printed and the device secured;

### **Definition of 'sexual imagery'**

There are a number of definitions but for the purposes of this advice sexual imagery is simply defined as:

- Inappropriate offensive images or videos generated by children under the age of 18, or of children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are indecent.

- These images are shared between young people and/or adults via a mobile phone, handheld device or website with people they may not even know.

No two cases will be the same and it is therefore necessary to carefully consider each case on its own merit apply a consistent approach when dealing with an incident to help protect staff, the College and the student. The range of contributory factors in each case also needs to be considered in order to determine an appropriate and proportionate response. All staff and students should be familiar with the seriousness of sharing sexual imagery and the safeguarding procedures should such situations arise.

### **Private Fostering**

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately, without the authority of the local authority for the care of a child under the age of 16 or 18 if disabled, by someone other than a parent or close relative. These young people may be vulnerable, particularly if they have come from another country. In some cases they are affected by abuse and neglect, or be involved in trafficking or child sexual exploitation. There is a mandatory duty to inform the local authority of children in such arrangements.

### **When a Child is Missing or their Whereabouts is Unknown**

All students under 18 or who are vulnerable adults who go missing or their whereabouts are unknown will be reported to the Police. If the student is deemed to be at immediate risk the Safeguarding Manger will report this to the Police immediately. Any relevant information that might help to find or support the child will be shared. If the student is a Looked After Child, a Care Leaver or an Unaccompanied Young Person the College will immediately contact the Police and Social Services.

The College is required by law to report on the attendance of international students to the UK Border Agency (UKBA), the College will report non-attendance in the following circumstances

- Attendance drops below 80%, including absence due to lateness
- Failure to enrol on a course or withdrawal from a course
- Unauthorised absences of greater than 2 consecutive weeks OR 10 missed contacts
- Change of course
- Other significant circumstances which may affect their visa conditions

It is essential that all staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

### **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal and must be reported to the Police as soon as possible.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 was brought into force on 3 March 2004 and makes it an offence for the first time for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out female genital mutilation (FGM) abroad, or to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad, even in countries where the practice is legal.

FGM is extremely harmful. It is not like male circumcision. It causes long-term mental and physical suffering, difficulty in giving birth, infertility and even death. It cannot be justified as a cultural or religious practice. Leaders of all the main faiths have spoken out against it. Girls under 15 are at most risk. Concerns regarding any students must be reported to the Safeguarding team for an immediate referral to the Police.

### **Hate Crime**

Hate crime is an act of violence or hostility directed at people because of who they are or who someone thinks they are. Incidents of hate crime should be reported to the Safeguarding Manager at the relevant campus.

### **Online Harassment**

Online harassment is unwanted conduct on any digital platform encompassing threats, stalking and/or coercion that makes people feel upset, threatened, coerced, humiliated or discriminated against. Incidents of online harassment should be reported through the Safeguarding Manager. If immediate intervention is required, please call the emergency safeguarding numbers.

### **Sexual Harassment and Violence**

Sexual harassment is when someone behaves in a way that makes a person feel distressed, intimidated or offended and the behaviour is of a sexual nature. This includes: sexual comments and jokes, unwelcome sexual advances, inappropriate touching, displaying photos or pictures of a sexual nature and sending emails or messages with sexual content.

The 'Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges' Department for Education guidance (2017) gives advice on how to deal with these situations, please refer any concerns the Safeguarding Manager. If immediate intervention is required, please call the emergency safeguarding numbers.

### **Forced Marriage**

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. It is

an entirely separate issue from arranged marriage, and the two things should not be confused. Forced marriage is a human rights abuse and falls within the Crown Prosecution Service definition of domestic violence. Young people at risk of a forced marriage are usually experiencing emotional and/or physical abuse at home.

The majority of forced marriages involve a young female victim, but young men can also be victims. Around one-third of the cases handled by the FMU (Forced Marriage Unit) involve children under 18 years of age.

Concerns regarding any students must be reported to the Safeguarding team without delay. Staff must be aware there may be only one opportunity to speak to a potential victim of forced marriage, so an appropriate initial response is vital. The victim's family, friends or members of the community **MUST NOT** be informed. The victim has sought help and this will likely increase the risk to the victim significantly. Forced marriage is closely linked to honour-based violence and honour killings. All those involved will want to bear in mind that mediation as a response to forced marriage can be extremely dangerous. There have been cases of victims being murdered by their families during mediation. Mediation can also place someone at risk of further emotional and physical abuse.

Victims should be reminded of their rights – they have the right to choose who they marry and the right to make decisions about their lives.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Forced Marriage Unit, they have a public helpline that provides confidential advice and support to victims, and to practitioners handling cases of forced marriage.

### **Parental Involvement**

The Safeguarding Team will contact parents/carers of students under the age of 18 to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with the family and, where possible, seek their agreement to making referrals to children's social care, unless it is deemed that it may place the student at greater risk.

Where possible the Safeguarding Managers will keep the parent/carer informed of actions and progress.

### **On-line Safety**

On-line Safety covers issues relating to young people as well as adults and their safe use of the Internet, smartphones and other electronic communications technologies, both in and out of College. It includes awareness raising for all members of the College community on risks and responsibilities and is part of the 'duty of care', which applies to everyone working with young people and vulnerable adults.

All members of staff will be made aware of the importance of good e-Safety practice in the learning environment in order to educate and protect the young people and vulnerable adults in their care.

Staff awareness will be raised about managing their own professional reputation online, including how to demonstrate appropriate online behaviours compatible with their role. Personal use of social networking, social media and personal publishing sites will be discussed as part of staff induction and safe and professional behaviour will be outlined in the Staff Acceptable Use Policy. Staff will only use official College provided email accounts to communicate with students and parents/carers.

On-line Safety awareness will be part of student induction.

Safe and responsible use of the Internet and technology will be reinforced across the curriculum and subject areas. Students will be advised never to give out personal details of any kind which may identify them and / or their location outlined in the Student Acceptable Use Policy. Particular attention to On-line Safety education will be given where students are considered to be vulnerable.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed of any On-line Safety incidents, and any incidents involving Child Protection or vulnerable adult concerns will then be escalated appropriately. Any material that the College believes is illegal will be reported to appropriate agencies such as Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), Sussex Police or CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre).

The College will record e-Safety incidents and manage concerns in accordance with the College disciplinary policies where appropriate.

### **Designated Staff with Specific Responsibility for Safeguarding Young People and Adults who are or may become vulnerable**

#### **GOVERNING BODY**

The Governing Body has a designated governor with specific responsibilities for the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults. The designated governor will receive appropriate Safeguarding training.

The designated governor is responsible for liaising with the Principal and the Designated Safeguarding Lead over matters regarding safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults', including:

- Ensuring that the College has guidelines and policies which are consistent with the area safeguarding young people and vulnerable adult procedures.
- Ensuring that each year the governing body reviews the College policy relating to the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults.

The designated governor is responsible for overseeing the liaison between external agencies such as the police, social services – as defined by the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children's Board in connection with allegations against the Principal or the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This will not involve undertaking any form of

investigation, but will ensure good communication between the parties and provide information to assist enquiries.

To assist in these duties, the designated governor shall receive appropriate training and refresher training every year. The Governing Body will receive an annual report.

### **SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

The College has a designated member of the Senior Management Team to take lead responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults' issues.

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The post holder has a key duty regarding the promotion of a safe environment for the young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable whilst learning within the College and for ensuring that relevant staff are aware of their duties and obligations. The post holder will ensure that deficiencies in procedural policy identified by the East Sussex Local Children's Safeguarding Board (or other agencies) are brought to the attention of the Governing Body at the earliest opportunity.

The post holder has received appropriate training in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adult issues as required by the East Sussex Local Children's Safeguarding Board, and will receive refresher training every year. In addition the Deputy DSL will receive training to the same level.

### **SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

The College's Safeguarding Team have responsibilities which include:

- Ensuring appropriate cover is in place including during the holiday periods; telephone number on the back of all ID cards (07584204903) is staffed at all times
- Overseeing the referral of cases of suspected abuse or allegations to area services and police. Providing advice and support to staff on issues relating to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults.
- Maintaining an accurate record of any referral, complaint or concern relating to any young person or vulnerable adult (even where such a concern does not lead to a referral) and ensuring that these records are kept securely.
- Liaising with Children's Services and other appropriate agencies such as Police, Social Services, and the Prevent Coordinator etc.
- Liaising with secondary schools which send pupils to the College to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for their pupils.
- Where appropriate, liaising with residential care establishments.
- Liaising with employers and training organisations that receive young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable from the College on long term placements to ensure that appropriate safeguards are put in place.
- Ensuring that staff receive basic training in safeguarding young person and vulnerable adults issues and are aware of the College procedures

- Being available to provide advice and support to other staff on issues relating to safeguarding young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable and to listen to young people and adults who are or may become vulnerable studying at the College
- Dealing with individual cases, including attending case conferences and review meetings as appropriate
- Undertaking training in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adult's issues and inter-agency working, as required by the East Sussex Local Children's Safeguarding Board, and will receive refresher training every year.

### **Dealing with Disclosure of Abuse and Procedure for Reporting Concerns**

A member of staff may suspect that a learner is being abused or is at risk of significant harm. A learner may disclose to a member of staff that s/he is being abused.

In these circumstances the following procedure should be followed.

#### **Significant concerns:**

If a member of staff has concerns about a learner and believes that they are being abused, at risk of immediate harm, at risk of being radicalized or are missing, the member of staff should

- Call the **Emergency Safeguarding Number:**

Hastings: 07848442081

Eastbourne: 03030039039

Lewes: 07823668772

and speak to a member of the Safeguarding team who will liaise with the DSL and consider and advise whether the College should register the concern.

#### **Disclosure of Abuse**

If a disclosure is made or abuse is suspected, staff should

- Listen carefully and stay calm
- Question without pressure to be sure that what is being said is properly understood by the member of staff
- Reassure the individual concerned that s/he has done the right thing
- Explain to the individual who has disclosed that the information must be passed on but only to those who need to know about it.
- Note the main points promptly and carefully
- Make a note of the date, time and place, what the individual said /did, the questions asked by the member of staff
- Contact the Safeguarding Team via a Student Support Services Referral on ProMonitor-

Staff must not:

- Ask leading questions or put words into the mouth of the disclosing individual



- Investigate concerns/ allegations
- Promise confidentiality

### **Reporting to designated staff**

Staff should report concerns, suspicions or disclosures of abuse, risk of radicalisation or missing students immediately to one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers.

### **Reporting and dealing with allegations against staff**

An allegation made against a member of staff might indicate:

- the possibility that a criminal act against or relating to a young/vulnerable person has been committed
- that there is reasonable cause to believe that a young or vulnerable person is suffering or may suffer significant harm
- that the alleged perpetrator is unsuitable to work with young /vulnerable people.

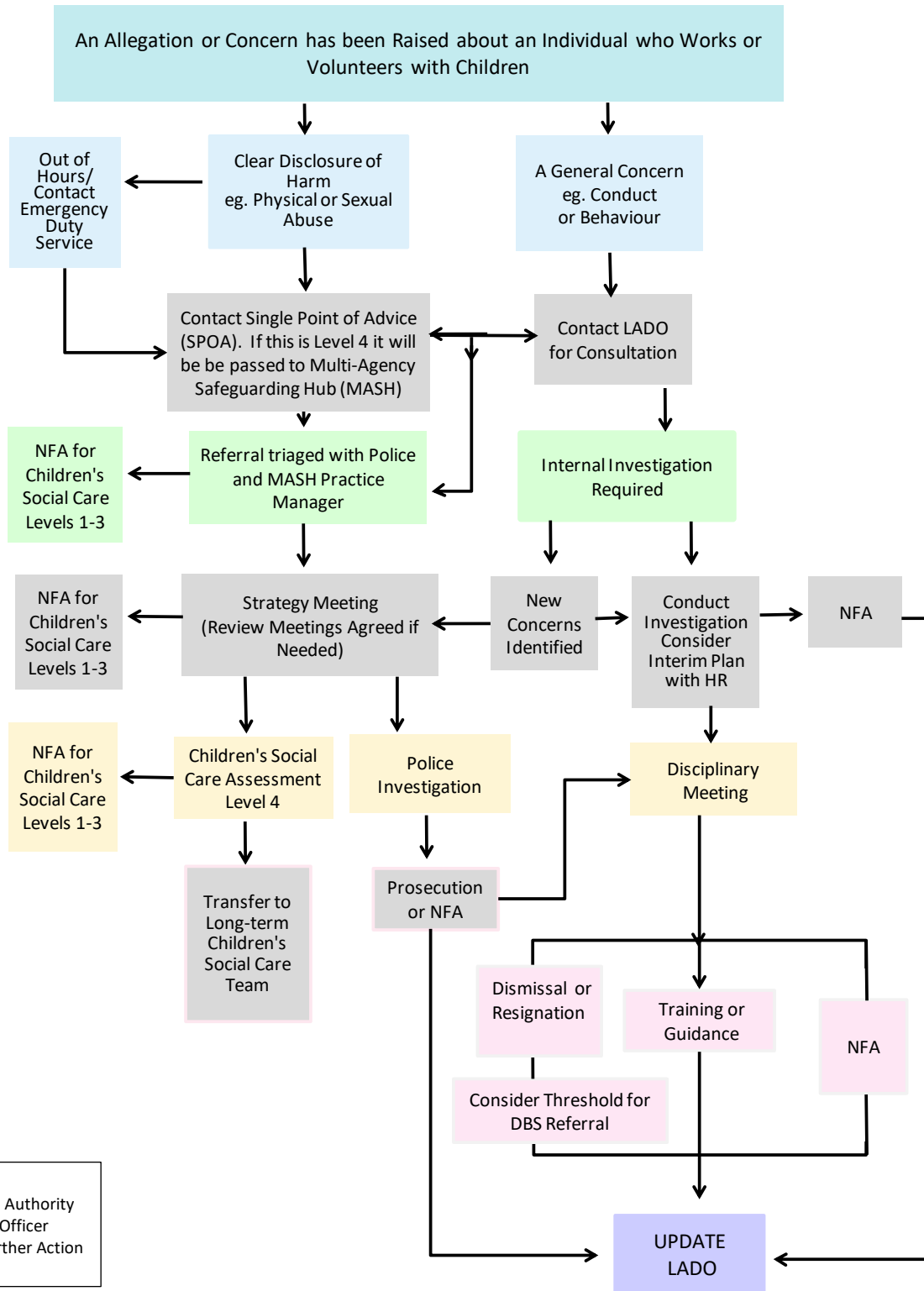
The response to such an allegation might lead to:

- police investigation of a possible criminal offence
- enquiries by Children's or Adult Services about whether there is a need for protection or some other action
- the possibility of disciplinary action or dismissal by the employer

Due to the potential seriousness of such an allegation the case must be immediately referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Director of Human Resources. Allegations must not be discussed with the alleged perpetrator.

**Annex 1**  
Local Authority Process

**Managing Allegations Flowchart**



### **Whistleblowing**

The College is committed to operating in an ethical and principled way. The College has a Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure (available from HR) to provide employees with a means for raising genuine concerns. Where a member of staff does not feel able to raise an issue with their employer or feels that genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them:

- General advice can be found at : [www.gov.uk/whistleblowing](http://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing)
- The NSPCC whistleblowing hotline – 0800 028 0285 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

### **Record Keeping**

Safeguarding records created by college staff will be logged electronically under confidential comments on ProMonitor. Any documents relating to a student, which cannot be stored electronically will be stored in a locked cabinet at each site with access only to those with direct safeguarding responsibility. This ensures cases can be picked up by other officers should someone be absent.

All records should be kept until a young person's 25th birthday.