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Policy and Procedure on

Child Protection and Safeguarding – children's services

Lufton College

Policy Author	Policy and Performance Team – children's services
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Contents

1. **Monitoring and review** **3**
2. **Terminology** **3**
3. **Definitions and age related arrangements** **4**
   - Multi agency working – Safeguarding Partners & Children's Social Care 4
   - Child protection definition 5
   - Safeguarding definition – Working together to safeguarding children 2018 5
   - Safeguarding definition – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 5
   - Safeguarding Adults 5
   - The difference between safeguarding and child protection 5
   - Abuse and neglect – child and young person context 6
4. **Purpose** **6**
5. **Policy** **7**
   - Safeguarding culture of the organisation 7
   - Divisional Safeguarding Board 8
   - What staff should read and be aware of 8
   - Whole service approach to Safeguarding 9
   - Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues 9
6. **Procedure** **10**
   - Roles and responsibilities 10
   - Information sharing and managing the child protection file 12
   - LADO referral criteria (KCSIE2021) – meeting the harm threshold 13
   - Children potentially at greater risk of harm 13
   - Unexplained body marks 14
   - A disclosure from an Individual 14
   - Risk Assessment 16
   - Following a report - what to consider 16
   - Options to manage the report 17
   - Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious reports 17
   - Safeguarding and supporting the victim 18
   - Safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s) 18
   - Setting priorities 19
   - Allegation of abuse by one or more Individuals on another Individual 19
   - Allegation of abuse of an Individual who is not registered at our provision – staff involved 19
   - Allegation of abuse of an Individual who is not registered at our provision- third party involved 20
   - Allegations against staff 20

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Allegations against staff in Education 20
Allegations against supply teachers and all workers supplied by agency 20
Allegations against the DSL (Head of College or Registered Manager or DSL as a substantive role) 21
Allegations against the Managing Director 22
Allegations against any other Senior Leader 22
Allegations against the Chief Operating Officer / Head of Children's Services 22
Allegations against the Chief Executive Officer 23
Low level concerns 23
The initial response to allegation 24
No Further Action 25
Further enquiries 25
Suspension 25
Supporting those involved 25
Allegation outcomes 25
Serious incident reporting 26
Death of someone in our care including rapid response to unexpected death 26
Abuse of position of trust 27
Volunteers 27
Contractors 27
Use of school or college premises for non-school/college activities 27
Extended school and off-site arrangements 27
Use of mobile phones 27
Photography and images 28
Physical intervention and use of reasonable force 28
Staff Taking Medication or other substances 28
Information for individuals and relatives/carers 28
Recruitment and vetting 28
Requirements to inform Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) 29
Record-keeping 29
Monitoring 30
Training 30
Confidentiality and information sharing 30
Complaints and Monitoring 32
7. Accountability 32
8. Further Safeguarding information – what everyone need to know (Appendix 11) 33
9. Appendices 33
Appendix 1: Relevant policies and documents 33
Appendix 2: Legislation and guidance 35
Appendix 3: Child Protection and safeguarding procedure (Flow chart) 36
Appendix 4: Types of abuse – children 37
Appendix 5: Types of abuse - adults 38
Appendix 6: Signs that someone could be a victim 40
Appendix 7: Signs that someone could be an abuser 42
Appendix 8: DSL/DSL Deputy – actions, reporting and recording procedure 43
Appendix 9: Key contacts 45
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Sophia Cursons, Head of College & Registered Manager 45
Appendix 10. Safeguarding in children's Services - illustration 46
Appendix 11. Further Safeguarding information – what everyone needs to know 47

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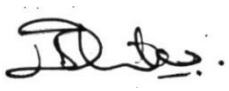
1. Monitoring and review

1.1 The Cambian (the Proprietor) will undertake a formal annual review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

1.2 The local content of this policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Head of Service.

Signed:



Jeremy Wiles
Group Executive Director- Children's Services
Date: August 2021

Sophia Cursons
Head of College
01 September 2021

2. Terminology

2.1. Our aim is to use consistent terminology throughout this policy and all supporting documentation as follows:

'Establishment' or 'Location	This is a generic term which means the Children's college.
Individual	This means any child or young person under the age of 18, young adult between the ages of 18 and 25. At Lufton College we have students residing at and/or attending our college between the ages of 16 and 25 years.
Head of Service	This is the senior person with overall responsibility for the college. At Lufton College this is the Head of College and Registered Manager, Sophia Cursons.
Key Worker	Members of staff that have special responsibility for Individuals residing at or attending the Establishment.
Parent, Carer, Guardian	Means parent or person with Parental Responsibility
Regulatory Authority	Regulatory Authority is the generic term used in this policy to describe the independent regulatory body responsible for inspecting and regulating services.
Social Worker	This means the worker allocated to the individual's family. If there is no allocated worker, the Duty Social Worker or Team Manager is responsible.
Safeguarding Authority	Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership & Somerset Safeguarding Adults Partnership
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
DSL/DSL Deputy	Designated Safeguarding Lead/Designated Safeguarding Lead Deputy
Placing Authority	Placing Authority means the local authority/agency responsible for placing the child or commissioning the service
Staff	Means full or part-time employees of Cambian, agency workers, bank workers, contract workers and volunteers.
CambianKPI	The online in-house information system which holds data for each site on quality measures.

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3. Definitions and age related arrangements

3.1. **Children and Young people are under 18**. Whilst Working together to Safeguard Children (2018) applies to children and young people until they reach the age of 18, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) now applies to providers of post 16 education as set out in Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021.

3.2. **Adults are over the age of 18**. Over 18 year olds are covered by the Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (LSABs). Government guidance can be gained from the Care Act 2014. An adult at risk of harm or abuse is any person who has needs for care and support and, is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect; and as a result of their particular care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect'. We refer to adult service users in our provision as **young adults** due to the fact we provide children's services up to the age of 25.

3.3. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016 and it provides the legal framework for social service provision in Wales. It sets out what must and should be done to safeguard children and adults. At a local level regional safeguarding children's boards co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of work to protect and promote the welfare of children.

3.4. Staff working with young adults aged 18 and over, who receive education, care and support from our children's services division will follow the Adult safeguarding referral process to LSAB/MASH/Regional Safeguarding Children's Boards depending on local arrangements.

3.5. This policy addresses children and young people up to the age of 18 and those over the age of 18 who attend a day or residential school or college – this might be 38 or 52 weeks' provision. Some children attending school or college live in children's homes or care homes across England and Wales, hence the reason why this policy and procedure is more comprehensive than that of a traditional day school or college. Our safeguarding responsibility extends beyond day education and often covers 24hrs services regulated by various regulators across the UK.

3.6. Where we make references to schools and colleges, this also includes associated children's or care homes in which children/young people live. Where we make references to children's or care homes, those cover all children's/care homes including those within the children's residential care division.

Multi agency working – Safeguarding Partners & Children's Social Care

3.7. Children Social Care - provide support to children in need of help and protection, including children with disabilities. Services include statutory assessment and care planning for children at risk of significant harm, provision for cared for children and care experienced young people, as well as fostering and adoption services.

3.8. Schools and colleges have a pivotal role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the school or college contributes to multi-agency working in line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.

3.9. Locally, the three safeguarding partners (the local authority, a clinical commissioning group for an area within the local authority and the chief officer of police for an area (any part of which falls) within the local authority area made arrangements to work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs.

3.10. It is especially important that schools and colleges understand their role in the three safeguarding partner arrangements. Governing bodies, proprietors and their senior leadership teams, especially their DSLs, should make themselves aware of and follow their local arrangements.

3.11. The three safeguarding partners should make arrangements to allow all schools and colleges in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in safeguarding arrangements. It is expected that, locally, the three safeguarding partners will name schools and colleges as relevant agencies and will reach their own conclusions on the best way to achieve the active engagement with individual institutions in a meaningful way.

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Child protection definition

3.12. Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Safeguarding definition – Working together to safeguarding children 2018

3.13. **Safeguarding children and young people** is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. It means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment,
- Preventing harm to children's health or development,
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care,
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding definition – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021

3.14. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

3.15. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment,
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development,
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding Adults

3.16. Safeguarding Adults means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

3.17. The statutory guidance enshrines the **six principles** of adults safeguarding:

- Empowerment - presumption of person led decisions and informed consent
- Prevention - it is better to take action before harm occurs
- Proportionality - proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- Protection - support and representation for those in greatest need
- Partnerships - local solutions through services working with their communities
- Accountability - accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

3.18. Caretech has Safeguarding Adults at Risk (England) and Safeguarding Adults (Wales) policies and procedures which apply to its Adults' Services. Both policies can be accessed via Rezume. Services operating in Wales can find their Safeguarding Regional Boards via this hyperlink which provides access to local procedures for each Board https://safeguardingboard.wales/find-your-board/.

The difference between safeguarding and child protection

3.19. In relation to children's services - in practice safeguarding is the policies and practices that schools/colleges/children's homes employ to keep children safe and promote their well-being. This means everything from security of the buildings, to the safe recruitment of staff and everything in between. **Appendix 10.** Illustrates Safeguarding in children's services.

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Abuse and neglect – child and young person context

3.20. In the context of a child/young person abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child/young person by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children/young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child/young person or children/young people.

3.21. Abuse could mean neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse, any other including combination of these. The different types of abuse are explained in more detail in **Appendix 4 – Types of abuse - children.** The signs that someone could be a victim or an abuser have been explored **in Appendix 6 and Appendix 7.** Parents, carers and other people can harm children and young people by direct acts and/or failure to provide proper care. It should also be understood that children can also be abused by being sexually exploited, or subject to honour based abuse, domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and through online social media. See **Appendix 11 - Further safeguarding information – what everyone need to know.**

3.22. In the context of an adult, abuse is a violation of a person's human and civil rights by another person or persons and may result in significant harm to, or the exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

3.23. In addition to the types of abuse mentioned in **Appendix 4 – Types of abuse - Children,** there are other forms of abuse in relation to adults explained in more detail in **Appendix 5 – Types of abuse – Adults.**

3.24. Abuse can happen anywhere: for example, in someone's own home, in a public place, in hospital, in a care home, school or in a college. It can happen when someone lives alone or with others. Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect. Abuse can be intentional or unintentional, it may be a single act or repeated acts.

4. Purpose

4.1. As an organisation we have a clear set of guidelines to make sure we deal with child protection and safeguarding concerns effectively.

4.2. This policy is aligned with legislation outlined in **Appendix 2 – Legislation and guidance,** and it complies with the statutory and best practice guidance as set out in the **25.10 Staff Safeguarding Information Poster.** This policy complies with Somerset safeguarding board's locally agreed procedures. Printed or electronic copies of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships (LSCP) and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) procedures are available in every setting.

4.3. Policies and procedures for child protection and safeguarding must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the local authority in which the establishment is situated.

4.4. This policy, and supporting information in various accessible forms, is made available to all Individuals, staff and parents associated with Lufton College to ensure that everyone is clear on procedures for ensuring the protection of children and safeguarding children and young adults.

4.5. This policy and procedure must be read in conjunction with **GHR 30. Whistleblowing Policy** and **GHR 11. Staff Code of Practice and GHR 37. Code of Conduct.**

4.6. In addition, staff should be aware of and have access to the **NSPCC whistle-blowing helpline number 0800 028 0285** and the Cambian Whistleblowing service operated by **EthicsPoint on 0800 086 9128.** More information about EthicsPoint and how it can be contacted can be found in the Whistleblowing policy.

4.7. 'When to call the police' has been produced by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) to support school and college staff with when it is appropriate to contact the police.

4.8. This NPCC advice does not cover safeguarding incidents. Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. Referrals should follow the local referral process.

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5. Policy

Safeguarding culture of the organisation

5.1. Cambian safeguarding culture can be best described as:

- **Proactive** (being professionally curious to determine further information in the interests of the child. It is essential that staff exercise professional curiosity at all times as it is likely that signs of any form of abuse including neglect will be identified when dealing with an un-associated incident. Having strong governance and leadership, raising awareness through and enhancing children's and young people's capacity around the risks and their own safety, regular reflective supervision).

- **Reactive** (taking swift actions, reducing the risk of harm to a minimum, involving other professionals in timely manner, active listening, applying theory in practice in a methodical way).

- **Reflective** (understanding 'how we got there in the first place', completing a reflective account of events, involving other key professionals in future planning, identifying actions and further changes to be made).

5.2. Child Protection and Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Everyone working for or visiting our locations has a responsibility to understand and implement this policy and procedure at all times.

5.3. All Individuals in our services have a right to feel safe, secure and be protected from harm.

5.4. As a provider of specialist education and care services it is imperative that all staff are aware that all Individuals with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disabilities:

- Are more likely to be abused or neglected;
- May display behaviour, mood and/or injury which may relate to possible abuse and not just their SEN or a particular disability;
- Have a higher risk of peer group isolation;
- Can be disproportionally impacted by things like bullying without outwardly showing any signs;
- Experience communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

5.5. The most common reason for children or young people being looked after is as a result of abuse/neglect. We will ensure all staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to help keep children and young people safe.

5.6. All staff have a key role in the prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate an Individual is at risk of harm, either in the school, college, and care home or in the community, taking into account contextual safeguarding, see **Appendix 11 - Further safeguarding information – what everyone need to know** which also contains information related to safeguarding issues related to individual children and young people's needs.

5.7. We have a duty to help Individuals learn how to keep themselves safe and deepen their understanding of safeguarding, through both formal curriculum and informal opportunities.

5.8. As an organisation we acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects Individuals and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership, working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children and will equally work through safeguarding adults' procedures as directed by local procedures.

5.9. A comprehensive list of all supporting documentation and related policies, procedures and guidance referred to in this document can be found in separate appendices at the end of this document.

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Divisional Safeguarding Board

5.10. As an organisation Caretech children's services operates 3 Divisional Safeguarding Boards: Education, Residential Care and Fostering. The main purpose of each board is to ensure that all services across all divisions discharge their responsibilities effectively for assuring safe and secure services for children and young people, and manage all safeguarding risks appropriately within its own workforce, including direct employees and also the contracted workforce (supply workers/agency/contractor and subcontractors). The full terms of reference for each Board is available on Cambian Point.

What staff should read and be aware of

5.11. KCSIE2021 guidance replaces Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 updated in January 2021. The changes came into force on 01 September 2021. The statutory guidance should be read and followed by the Proprietor(s) of independent schools and non-maintained special schools and colleges. In both instances this includes including Senior Leadership Team.

5.12. All staff in Caretech/Cambian schools and colleges must read at least **Part one of KCSiE2021** guidance and school/colleges should have a record to confirm this has been completed.

5.13. HTs / Head of Colleges and DSL's (or a deputy) should read the **whole KCSIE2021 Guidance**.

5.14. The guidance also suggests that Governors and Proprietor should read **Annex A** which is a condensed version of Part one: 'Annex A can be provided (instead of Part one) to those staff who do not directly work with children, if the governing body or proprietor think it will provide a better basis for those staff to promote the welfare and safeguard children'. The Organisation maintains that all staff including those supporting the school/college with frequent or less frequent visits to the site read at **least Part One** so all staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

5.16 The guidance should be read alongside:

- statutory guidance - Working Together to Safeguard Children
- departmental advice - What to do if you are Worried a Child is Being Abused - Advice for Practitioners ; and;
- Part 5 of KCSIE2021 should be read alongside the departmental advice - Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges which contains further details on: what sexual violence and sexual harassment constitutes, important context to be aware of, including; what is consent, power imbalances, and developmental stages, harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), including that a child displaying HSB may be an indication that they are a victim of abuse themselves, related legal responsibilities for schools and colleges, advice on a whole school or college approach to preventing child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment, and more detailed advice on responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment, including safeguarding and supporting both the victim(s) and alleged perpetrator(s).

5.15. In July 2021 DSL (or a deputy) within Education division, Heads/Head of Colleges, Representative from Children's residential care (Senior Managers), Representatives from Business Support Functions and Directors attended KCSiE2021 webinar provided by the Safeguarding Network. Following the webinar, recording of session and the additional learning resources have been shared with the participants to support dissemination to their teams.

5.16. Caretech/Cambian schools and colleges are members of the Safeguarding Network and should plan how the learning will take place with their staff, the KCSiE2021 knowledge check (via Safeguarding Network) should be completed via MYRUS and services must ensure that the record of completed knowledge check is stored on MYRUS - the Organisation's Learning and Development platform.

5.17. The Heads/Head of Colleges and DSL should ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part one of KCSIE2021 guidance. Schools and colleges and their staff are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.

5.18. All staff should be aware of systems within their school or college which support safeguarding and these should be explained to them as part of staff induction. This should include the:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy

- Behaviour Support policy

- Anti bullying policy

- Whistleblowing policy, Code of conduct and Code of Practice policy

- Missing from Care policy, local procedure for children missing from education

- Role of the DSL (including the identity of the DSL and any deputies)

- Have Access to policies and a copy of Part one of KCSIE2021

- All staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it, more information can be found in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (publishing.service.gov.uk).

5.19. All staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

5.20. Schools concerned about a child's welfare should refer their concern to local authority children's social care. Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to children's social care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. Referrals should follow the local referral process. Children's homes/care homes should follow their referral process as per their local procedure and contact Safeguarding Partner/Safeguarding Board as per their local Safeguarding procedure.

5.21. All staff should know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused, exploited or neglected. Staff should know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those who need to be involved, such as the DSL (or a deputy) and children's social care. Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

5.22. Staff should **not** assume a colleague, or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe. They should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for the effective identification, assessment, and allocation of appropriate service provision, whether this is when problems first emerge, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care (such as a child in need or a child with a protection plan).

Whole service approach to Safeguarding

5.23. The proprietor and service (school/college/home) leaders should ensure they facilitate a whole school or college approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

5.24. Where there is a safeguarding concern, the proprietor and service leaders should ensure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems should be in place, and they should be well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues

5.25. Children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges. There might be some additional barriers when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's/young person's condition without further exploration;

- these children/young people being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children/young people;
- the potential for children/young people with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionally impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.

5.26. SEN division and other services where children have/may have SEND should consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place. Further information can be found in the Department's: SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25 and Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions.

6. Procedure

Roles and responsibilities

6.1. **All employees, volunteers, consultants, agency staff, sub-contractors, partner organisations and visitors** are obliged to follow this policy and maintain an environment that prevents exploitation and abuse and which encourages reporting of breaches of this policy using the appropriate procedures.

6.2. **Managers at all levels** are responsible for ensuring volunteers, consultants, agency staff, sub-contractors, partner organisations and visitors are aware of the policy and are supported to implement and work in accordance with it, as well as creating a management culture that encourages a focus on safeguarding. They must ensure that they are responsive, acting immediately if they become aware of any safeguarding concerns, and supportive towards employees or volunteers who complain about breaches in this policy.

6.3. The **DSL** is responsible for handling reports and/or concerns, about the protection of children, young people and adults, appropriately and in accordance with the procedures that underpin this policy.

Sophia Cursons
Head of College &
Registered Manager
07766 141296

6.4. **Our DSL** is Sophia Cursons who is a senior member of our leadership team. The role of the DSL is to:

- Ensure this child protection and safeguarding policy and local arrangements are known, understood and used appropriately by the staff.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff, provide support to staff to carry out their safeguarding duties.
- Act as a point of contact with the Safeguarding Authority.
- Take lead responsibility for referring and managing safeguarding issues and cases, unless management of a particular case is passed on to a more senior member of the organisation – see section of allegations (those meeting harm threshold and those which don't meet LADO criteria).

- Liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, senior mental health leads and special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college and Senior Mental Health Leads) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children's needs are considered holistically.
- Liaise with the senior mental health lead and, where available, the Mental Health Support Team, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- Refer all cases of suspected abuse or allegations of abuse to the Local Safeguarding Authority (child or adult) and where appropriate - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Liaise with the head teacher or Head of College (if they are not the DSL themselves) to inform him or her of issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- As required, liaise with the "case manager" and the local authority designated officer(s) (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member.
- Refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required.
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child/young person to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- Refer cases where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required.
- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the location when deciding to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children are experiencing, or have experienced, with teachers and school and college leadership staff.
- Identify staff safeguarding training needs and organise training for their staff.
- Participate in local safeguarding boards when required.
- Evaluate and contribute to high standards of safeguarding practice at the location.
- Work to ensure that the wellbeing of children and young people is in constant focus and that they are guarded from harm or abuse.
- Ensure the child protection and safeguarding policy is available publicly and parents/those with parental responsibility are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school/college/home in this.
- Understands the relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially The Data Protection Act 2018.

6.5. More details about the role of the DSL including their availability, management of referrals, information sharing, working with others, raising awareness and other can be found in KCSIE 2021 Annex C – Role of the DSL.

6.6. **Designated Deputy** – will act up in the absence of the DSL and compliment their ongoing work where asked do to so. There are arrangements for covering the role of the DSL when Sophia Cursons is unavailable. Our larger provisions such as schools and college will have an internal Safeguarding Team lead by a DSL with a number of deputies where required. Our Designated Deputies are Hannah Hastilow, Jade Tillson, Emily Casey, Derrick Goddard, Emily Martina and Tracy Palmer.

Hannah Hastilow Head of Education	**Emily Casey** Deputy Head of Care	**Jade Tillson** Deputy Head of Care
07748 788627	07860 189681	07525 632977
Emily Martina Data Analyst	**Tracy Palmer** Administration Manager	**Derrick Goddard** Deputy Head of Education
01935 415907	01935 403120	07803 249348

6.7. All staff are required to be aware of and alert to the signs of abuse and neglect. All cases of suspected abuse and neglect should be given the highest priority.

6.8. All staff will be given a personal copy of the booklet titled **25.15 Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding at Cambian.**

6.9. There is **Appendix 3. Child Protection and safeguarding flowchart procedure,** which sets out clear steps to be followed when dealing with particular allegations, incidents or suspected physical injuries. Staff must use the correct forms when recording and managing concerns and allegations regarding the abuse of individuals. Education services must use Databridge: Concern/Safeguarding event log function to record concerns. Where, throughout this policy, references are made to the 'concern form' this means either **25.04 Concern form** which is a word document (part of this policy) or the Databridge – Concern/Safeguarding event log functionality where the system is being used.

Information sharing and managing the child protection file

6.10. **The DSL** is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file. Schools and colleges should use the Databridge event log system - Concern/Safeguarding function to record all concerns and to generate Safeguarding Tracking Packs per child/young person/concern as necessary.

6.11. Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome

6.12. They should ensure the file is only accessed by those who need to see it and where the file or content within it is shared, this happens in line with information sharing advice as set out in Part one of KCSIE2021. Schools and colleges using Databridge must set up their system Group permissions in line with this guidance. All staff can report concerns but only the Databridge 'Safeguarding Group' hold permissions controls and can view and report on the Concern forms.

6.13. Where reasonably possible, schools and colleges hold **more than one emergency contact number for each pupil or student.** This goes beyond the legal minimum. It is good practice to give the school or college additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is also identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

LADO referral criteria (KCSIE2021) – meeting the harm threshold

6.14. This is about managing cases of allegations that might indicate a person could pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in regular or close contact with children in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a school or college. This guidance should be followed where it is alleged that anyone working in the school or college that provides education for children under 18 years of age, including supply teachers and volunteers has:

- A person(s) behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, and/or,
- A person(s) possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, and/or,
- A person(s) behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or,
- A person(s) behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

6.15. The harm test is explained on the Disclosure and Barring service website on GOV.UK. Section 31(9) of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

6.16. The last bullet point above includes behaviour that may have happened outside of school or college that might make an individual unsuitable to work with children, this is known as transferable risk. Where appropriate an assessment of transferable risk to children with whom the person works should be undertaken. If in doubt seek advice from the local authority designated officer (LADO).

6.17. This above information relates to members of staff, supply staff and volunteers who are currently working in any school or college regardless of whether the school or college is where the alleged abuse took place. Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching should be referred to the police. Historical allegations of abuse should also be referred to the police.

Children potentially at greater risk of harm

6.18. Many children and young people in our services (Education and care) have an allocated social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs.

6.19. Children may need this help due to abuse, neglect and complex family circumstances. A child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.

6.20. Local authorities should share the fact a child has a social worker, and the DSL should hold and use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. This should be considered as a matter of routine. There are clear powers to share this information under existing duties on both local authorities and schools and colleges to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

6.21. Where children need a social worker, this should inform decisions about safeguarding (for example, responding to unauthorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks) and about promoting welfare (for example, considering the provision of pastoral and/or academic support, alongside action by statutory services). Schools/colleges must follow missing from education protocol agreed with their LA.

Unexplained body marks

6.22. Whilst Individuals are in our care there may be occasions where minor injuries occur such as bruises, swellings, cuts and scratches which by and large will be as a result of daily activities or for some Individuals as a result of self-injurious behaviour. However, all marks or physical changes must be recorded appropriately using a body chart. A Concern form must be completed for all unexplained marks and physical changes and passed to the DSL (or a deputy) along with copies of the last 3 days of Daily Diary notes and Activity Records. Parents/carers and social workers should always be kept informed. Concern log should be updated with concern and relevant reference number provided to concern.

6.23. The flowchart provided in - **25.14 Guidance for Investigating Unexplained Body marks** indicates the correct course of action for dealing with unexplained body marks.

6.24. The DSL will assign a manager to investigate the concern to ascertain the reason for the marks and if no reasonable explanation can be given the DSL must contact the Safeguarding Authority/LADO for further advice and mutual conclusion as to whether the matter should be treated as a Safeguarding Concern.

6.25. If the concern is considered to be a safeguarding concern, then safeguarding tracking pack must be opened and safeguarding process followed.

6.26. If the concern is considered not to be a safeguarding concern, then the concern investigation outcome must be shared with social worker and parents.

A disclosure from an Individual

6.27. Staff must follow the process outlined in **Appendix 3. Child Protection and safeguarding flowchart procedure.**

6.28. It is important to note that children/young people may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse verbally. Children/young people can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report. For example, a friend may make a report or a member of school or college staff may overhear a conversation that suggests a child has been harmed or a child's/young person's own behaviour might indicate that something is wrong. If staff have any concerns about a child's/young person's welfare, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told and follow the procedure described in **Appendix 3. Child Protection and safeguarding procedure.**

6.29. In case of reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children and young people, these are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, offered appropriate support and every effort is made to ensure their education and care is not disrupted. It is also important that other children, young people and staff are supported and protected as appropriate.

6.30. The service's initial response to a report from a child is incredibly important. How the staff respond to a report can encourage or undermine the confidence of future victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment to report or come forward.

6.31. If the child/young person make a disclosure - **Listen** to what they have to say and take them seriously. Reassure them but do not promise to keep it a secret. Not promising confidentiality at this initial stage as it is very likely a concern will have to be shared further (for example, with the DSL and Safeguarding Authority) to discuss next steps. Staff should only share the report with those people who are necessary in order to progress it. It is important that the victim understands what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to.

6.32. **Reflect back**, using the child's language, being non-judgmental, being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed, don't ask leading questions and only prompt the child where necessary with open questions – where, when, what, etc. It is important to note that whilst leading questions should be avoided, staff can ask children if they have been harmed and what the nature of that harm was.

6.33. **Recognise** that a child is likely to disclose to someone they trust: this could be anyone on the school or college staff. It is important that the person to whom the child discloses recognises that the child has placed them in a position of trust. They should be supportive and respectful of the child.

6.34. **Consider** the best way of making a record of the report. Best practice is to wait until the end of the report and immediately write up a thorough summary. This allows the staff member to devote their full attention to the child and to listen to what they are saying. It may be appropriate to make notes during the report (especially if a second member of staff is present). However, if making notes, staff should be conscious of the need to remain engaged with the child and not appear distracted by the note taking. Either way, it is essential a written record is made using Concern form which is part of this policy. The written record must be fully completed within maximum of 24 hours of the disclosure, but verbal report to the DSL must be completed within an hour from the moment of the disclosure being made.

6.35. Only recording the facts as the child presents them. The notes should not reflect the personal opinion of the note taker. Staff should be aware that notes of such reports could become part of a statutory assessment by Safeguarding Authority and/or part of a criminal investigation.

6.36. In cases where either a child/young person informs the staff that an act of FGM – however described – has been carried out on her, or where the staff observes physical signs on a girl appearing to show that an act of FGM has been carried out these situations, the DSL must be informed, who will trigger child protection/safeguarding procedures described in this policy and contact the Police. If a child/young person is at immediate risk – the Police (999) must be contacted immediately. If a child/young person required medical attention follow steps identified in '**Setting priorities**' section below.

6.37. Remember, **do not**:

- Investigate the incident
- Ask leading questions
- Get the young person to repeat the disclosure over and over
- Make assumptions or offer alternative explanations
- Approach/inform the alleged abuser

6.38. The procedure for reporting concern is described in **Appendix 8. DSL/DSL Deputy – actions, reporting and recording procedure.**

6.39. All staff know that they can contact the Local Authority direct should that be necessary. Where a safeguarding issue is raised for a young adult, the matter should be dealt with by the Local Safeguarding Adult Board. Where someone is over 18 but still receiving children's services, the matter should be dealt with by the local Safeguarding Adult Board.

6.40. For allegation made against a staff member or senior managers/directors follow relevant allegations procedures described later on in this policy.

6.41. Where contact is made with the Local Authority in which Lufton College is geographically located, contact will also be made with the individual's own Local Authority and also the child/young person's social worker. This will be completed by one of the members of the school/college/home's safeguarding team or staff.

6.42. In the case of serious harm, and/or the Individual is in immediate danger the local Police should be informed immediately a and they can take immediate protective action as necessary.

6.43. If a member of staff feels their concerns are not being taken seriously then they are to inform a more senior manager, a Director of the Company or contact Ofsted, CQC, the local safeguarding boards, the police or the **Whistleblowing Hotline – on 0800 086 9128.**

Cambian

Risk Assessment

6.44. When there has been a report of sexual violence, the DSL (or a deputy) should make an immediate risk and needs assessment. Where there has been a report of sexual harassment, the need for a risk assessment should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The risk and needs assessment should consider:

- the victim, especially their protection and support,
- whether there may have been other victims,
- the alleged perpetrator(s); and
- all the other children, (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) at the school or college especially, and any actions that are appropriate to protect them from the alleged perpetrator(s), or from future harms.

6.45. Risk assessments should be recorded (written or electronic) and should be kept under review. At all times, staff should be actively considering the risks posed to all their pupils and students and put adequate measures in place to protect them and keep them safe. The DSL (or a deputy) should ensure they are engaging with Safeguarding Authority and specialist services as required. Where there has been a report of sexual violence, it is likely that professional risk assessments by social workers and or sexual violence specialists will be required. The above school or college risk assessment is not intended to replace the detailed assessments of expert professionals. Any such professional assessments should be used to inform the school's or college's approach to supporting and protecting their pupils and students and updating their own risk assessment.

Following a report - what to consider

6.46. Important considerations will include:

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Victims should be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered. This will however need to be balanced with the school's or college's duty and responsibilities to protect other children;
- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including whether a crime may have been committed and/or whether HSB has been displayed;
- the ages of the children involved;
- the developmental stages of the children involved;
- any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator(s) significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse (sexual abuse can be accompanied by other forms of abuse and a sustained pattern may not just be of a sexual nature);
- that sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between peers;
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff; and
- other related issues and wider context, including any links to child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

6.47. As always when concerned about the welfare of a child, all staff should act in the best interests of the child. In all cases, schools and colleges should follow general safeguarding principles as set out throughout this guidance. Immediate consideration should be given as to how best to support and protect the victim and the alleged perpetrator(s) (and any other children involved/impacted).

Options to manage the report

6.48. It is important that schools and colleges consider every report on a case-by-case basis. When to inform the alleged perpetrator(s) will be a decision that should be carefully considered. Where a report is going to be made to Safeguarding Authority and/or the police, then, as a general rule, the school or college should speak to the relevant agency and discuss next steps and how the alleged perpetrator(s) will be informed of the allegations. However, as per general safeguarding principles, this does not and should not stop the school or college taking immediate action to safeguard their children, where required.

6.49. There are four likely scenarios for schools and colleges to consider when managing any reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. It will be important in all scenarios that decisions and actions are regularly reviewed and that relevant policies are updated to reflect lessons learnt. It is particularly important to look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, the school or college should decide on a course of action. Consideration should be given as to whether there are wider cultural issues within the school or college that enabled the inappropriate behaviour to occur and where appropriate extra teaching time and/or staff training could be delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again. The four scenarios are:

- **Manage internally:** In some cases of sexual harassment, for example, one-off incidents, the school or college may take the view that the children concerned are not in need of early help or that referrals need to be made to statutory services and that it would be appropriate to handle the incident internally, perhaps through utilising their behaviour policy and by providing pastoral support.

- **Early help:** In line with the above, the school or college may decide that the children involved do not require referral to statutory services but may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help can be particularly useful to address non-violent HSB and may prevent escalation of sexual violence. It is particularly important that the DSL (and their deputies) know what the Early Help process is and how and where to access support.
- **Referrals to Safeguarding Authority:** Where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, schools and colleges should make a referral to the local Safeguarding Authority. At the point of referral, schools and colleges will generally inform parents or carers, unless there are compelling reasons not to (if informing a parent or carer is going to put the child at additional risk). Any such decision should be made with the support of children's social care.
- **Reporting to the Police:** Any report to the police will generally be in parallel with a referral to children's social care (as above. It is important that the DSL and their deputies) are clear about the local process for referrals and follow that process.

6.50. More information about the four areas listed above, considering bail conditions, managing any delays in the criminal process and the end of criminal process can be found in KCSIE2021 Part 5 para 452.

Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious reports

6.51. If a report is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the DSL should consider whether the child and/or the person who has made the allegation is in need of help or may have been abused by someone else and this is a cry for help. In such circumstances, a referral to Safeguarding authority may be appropriate.

6.52. If a report is shown to be deliberately invented or malicious, the school or college, should consider whether any disciplinary action is appropriate against the individual who made it as per their own behaviour policy.

Safeguarding and supporting the victim

6.53. The needs and wishes of the victim should be paramount (along with protecting the child) in any response. It is important they feel in as much control of the process as is reasonably possible. Wherever possible, the victim, if they wish, should be able to continue in their normal routine. Overall, the priority should be to make the victim's daily experience as normal as possible, so that the school or college is a safe space for them.

6.54. Consider the age and the developmental stage of the victim, the nature of the allegations and the potential risk of further abuse. Schools and colleges should be aware that, by the very nature of sexual violence and sexual harassment, a power imbalance is likely to have been created between the victim and alleged perpetrator(s).

6.55. The victim should never be made to feel that they are the problem for making a report or made to feel ashamed for making a report. This has been made clear throughout this policy and procedure.

6.56. Consider the proportionality of the response. Support should be tailored on a case-by-case basis. The support required regarding a one-off incident of sexualised name-calling is likely to be vastly different from that for a report of rape.

6.57. Services should be aware that sexual assault can result in a range of health needs, including physical, mental, and sexual health problems and unwanted pregnancy. Children and young people that have a health need arising from sexual assault or abuse can access specialist NHS support from a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). SARCs offer confidential and non-judgemental support to victims and survivors of sexual assault and abuse. They provide medical, practical, and emotional care and advice to all children and adults, regardless of when the incident occurred.

6.58. More information about Early help, Children and young people's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and ChISVAs services (where available), CAMHS and other can be found in KCSIE 2021 Part 5 para 456.

Safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s)

6.59. Advice about safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrators is also set out in departmental advice: Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children at schools and colleges. The following principles are based on effective safeguarding practice and should help shape any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the alleged perpetrator(s):

- The school or college will have a difficult balancing act to consider. On the one hand, they need to safeguard the victim (and the wider pupil/student body) and on the other hand provide the alleged perpetrator(s) with an education, safeguarding support as appropriate and implement any disciplinary sanctions. Taking disciplinary action and still providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions. They can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary.

- Consider the age and the developmental stage of the alleged perpetrator(s), the nature of the allegations and frequency of allegations. Any child will likely experience stress as a result of being the subject of allegations and/or negative reactions by their peers to the allegations against them.

- Consider the proportionality of the response. Support (and sanctions) should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The alleged perpetrator(s) may potentially have unmet needs (in some cases these may be considerable) as well as potentially posing a risk of harm to other children. HSB in young children may be (and often are) a symptom of either their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and or materials.

- It is important that the perpetrator(s) is/are also given the correct support to try to stop them re-offending and to address any underlying trauma that may be causing this behaviour. Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

- Advice on behaviour and discipline in schools is clear that teachers can discipline pupils whose conduct falls below the standard which could be reasonably expected of them. If the perpetrator(s) is to be excluded the decision must be lawful, reasonable and fair.

6.60. More information in relation to this section can be found in KCSIE 2021 Part 5 para 464.

Setting priorities

6.61. The priority, at all stages throughout the child protection or safeguarding process, is the interests and safety of the individual.

6.62. Where appropriate, any concerns will be discussed with the Individual, their families / carers and where possible their agreement with be sought to making a referral to the Local Authority. However, where there is a conflict of interests between the Individual and parent/guardian, the interests of the Individual must take priority and Lufton College reserves the right to contact the Individual's local authority, Social Care or the Police, without notifying parents/carers if this is in the their best interests.

6.63. If an urgent medical attention or advice is required and GP/speciality doctor is not available, staff MUST use the NHS **111** service. NHS **111** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

6.64. If the situation is life - threatening, staff must call 999 immediately and ask for an ambulance. Alternatively, if it's assessed to be in the best interest of the child/young person - staff MUST take the Individual to the Accident and Emergency Unit at the nearest hospital, having first notified the DSL/Local Authority/Police, remembering that every reasonable effort should be made to inform the parents/carers as soon as possible.

6.65. If the suspected abuse is sexual, then the medical professional must determine if the medical examination should be delayed until the Local Authority and the Police can liaise with the hospital. There is a possibility that the needs of the young person are such that medical attention is the priority, in such case medical professional's judgment must be followed. There must at all times be an Appropriate adult (parent guardian or a social worker) with the individual whether from the Individual's care home/school/college, the Local Authority or the Police, if the parents/carers are not included. This section must be read in conjunction with our **0.29. Child Sexual Exploitation policy.**

6.66. Cambian will provide a NYAS advocate to each Individual where appropriate, if they are unable to speak for themselves without support or an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) if subject to MCA. Further information on MCA are available in our **0.13. Mental Capacity and Consent policy.**

Allegation of abuse by one or more Individuals on another Individual

6.67. All Individuals involved, whether perpetrator or victim, are treated as being 'at risk'. The procedures for dealing with such abuse will be followed, where there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that an Individual is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm'. DSL must refer peer on peer abuse to a Safeguarding Authority, local Authority and Regulator.

Allegation of abuse of an Individual who is not registered at our provision – staff involved

6.68. If we were given information that suggested that someone who does not reside at or attends our location has been abused by one of our members of staff, the DSL would immediately report this to the Local Authority and LADO. The Head of Service must be kept informed and HR Business Partner consulted. Should the staff member be involved we would then formally advise the member of staff of the allegation, making it clear that we would not play any part in the investigatory process. The employee would be advised of the possibility of facing suspension, re-assignment to other duties (to manage any perceived risks) etc., in exactly the same way as if the allegation had involved an Individual at our college. However, HR Business Partner must be consulted before any action is taken. If the allegation is subsequently proved to be unfounded, he or she would be given full support in resuming their career. Should we be asked by LADO/Safeguarding authority to be involved in any potential investigations or parts of it, a HR Business Partner will have to be consulted first. At this point an assessment will need to be made to identify what detail (if any) can be disclosed to a member of staff involved.

Cambian

Allegation of abuse of an Individual who is not registered at our provision- third party involved

6.69. If we were given information that suggested that someone who does not reside at or attends our location has been abused by a third party (known or unknown to the provision), the DSL would immediately report this to the Local Authority and Police. The Head of Service must be kept informed. DSL will follow advice provided by the leading agency and report back to the Head of Service who will explore any associated risk/s in relation to the provision.

Allegations against staff

6.70. All allegations must be reported to the DSL< Sophia Cursons or in their absence to a DSL Deputy – see your local Safeguarding poster. Also, where appropriate - HR Business Partner must be consulted.

6.71. When an allegation is made against a member of staff, set procedures must be followed, see the flow chart in **Appendix 3. Child Protection and safeguarding procedure (Flow chart).**

6.72. Staff MUST act on every allegation, all repeated allegations must be treated as new and carefully assessed and investigated. 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.

6.73. Staff should refer to the **25.08.Guidance for staff who have the allegation made against them** provided for what to do in the event an allegation is made against them.

Allegations against staff in Education

6.74. The staff in this section include teachers and TAs, supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors. KCSIE2021 splits the type of allegations into two groups:

- Allegations that may meet the harms threshold (see **LADO referral criteria (KCSIE2021) – meeting the harm threshold** of this policy)
- Allegation/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold – referred in the guidance and this policy as 'low level concerns'.

6.75. This is about managing cases of allegations that might indicate a person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in regular or close contact with children in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a school or college. The KCSiE2021 guidance should be followed where allegations are made against anyone working in the school or college that provides education for children under 18 years of age, including supply teachers and volunteers.

6.76. The information above relate to members of staff, supply staff and volunteers who are currently working in any school or college regardless of whether the school or college is where the alleged abuse took place. Allegations against a teacher who is no longer teaching should be referred **to the police** and HR Business Partner advised.

6.77. Where an adult makes an allegation to a school or college that they were abused as a child, the individual should be advised to report the allegation to the police. Non recent allegations made by a child, should be reported to the LADO in line with the local authority's procedures for dealing with non-recent allegations. The LADO will coordinate with children social care and the police. Abuse can be reported no matter how long ago it happened.

6.78. Where a teacher's employer, including an agency, dismisses or ceases to use the services of a teacher because of serious misconduct, or might have dismissed them or ceased to use their services had they not left first, they must consider whether to refer the case to the Secretary of State (via the Teaching Regulation Agency). Details about how to make a referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency can be found on GOV.UK.

Allegations against supply teachers and all workers supplied by agency

6.79. In some circumstances schools and colleges will have to consider an allegation against an individual not directly employed by them, where its disciplinary procedures do not fully apply because agencies will have their own policies and procedures; for example, supply teachers or contracted staff provided by an employment agency or business.

6.80. Whilst the Organisation's schools and colleges are not the employer of supply teachers, they should ensure allegations are dealt with properly. In no circumstances should a school or college decide to cease to use a supply teacher due to safeguarding concerns, without finding out the facts and liaising with the LADO to determine a suitable outcome. Schools and colleges must also consult HR Business Partner who may advise further. Governing bodies and proprietors should discuss with the supply agency or agencies where the supply teacher is working across a number of schools of colleges, whether it is appropriate to suspend the supply teacher, or redeploy them to another part of the school or college, whilst they carry out their investigation.

6.81. Agencies should be fully involved and co-operate with any enquiries from the LADO, police and/or children's social care. The school or college will usually take the lead because agencies do not have direct access to children or other school of college staff, so they will not be able to collect the facts when an allegation is made, nor do they have all the relevant information required by the LADO as part of the referral process.

6.82. When using a supply agency, schools and colleges should inform the agency of its process for managing allegations but also take account of the agency's policies and investigatory process and their duty to refer to the DBS as personnel suppliers. This should include inviting the agency's human resource manager or equivalent to meetings and keeping them up to date with information about its policies. It is important we not blur the lines of employment, so in case there is any confusion, HR Business Partner should be consulted.

Allegations against the DSL (Head of College or Registered Manager or DSL as a substantive role)

6.83. All allegations must be reported to:

- Education division: Regional Leads:
    - Simon Brown – SEN Regional Lead Education
    - Hayleigh Lukaszewski – Regional Education Care Lead

Unless within residential education Registered Manager is the DSL in which case the matter will be referred to the Head of College. For the DSL fulfilling the role as their substantive role, all allegations must be reported to the Head of College.

6.84. Depending on the division and who is the service DSL, people notified of allegation made (see above) will then refer the matter to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and notify their line manager:

- Education division: Regional Leads:
    - Simon Brown – SEN Regional Lead Education
    - Hayleigh Lukaszewski – Regional Education Care Lead
- Managing Director for Education Andrew Sutherland.

6.85. The person who referred the matter to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO in line with agreed course of action will make a decision about who will lead the case including management investigation – should the allegation threshold be met. The appropriate HR Business Partner should be notified, so they can advise and where required - support the investigation.

6.86. In residential education associated with children's homes/care homes the Responsible/Nominated Individual MUST also be notified.

Allegations against the Regional Manager/other Regional staff

6.87. Any allegations linked to the site, must be reported to the DSL of the site who will make the initial referral to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO. Following this, the allegation should be passed to the identified senior person to follow through with Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and subsequently act in line with agreed course of action. This means that the DSL will retain the responsibility to report the initial concern, but will have no further part in the process regarding gathering any information or, should it be required, in the actual investigation in relation to a senior member.

6.88. Allegations not linked to specific site must be reported to Managing Director who will refer the matter to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and act in line with agreed course of action.

6.89. The appropriate HR Business Partner should be notified, so they can advise and where required - support the investigation.

Allegations against the Managing Director

6.90. Any allegations linked to the site, must be reported to the DSL of the site who will make the initial referral to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO Following this, the allegation should be passed to the identified senior person to follow through with Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and subsequently act in line with agreed course of action. This means that the DSL will retain the responsibility to report the initial concern, but will have no further part in the process regarding gathering any information or, should it be required, in the actual investigation in relation to a senior member.

6.91. Allegations not linked to specific site must be reported to Chief Operating Officer who will refer the matter to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and act in line with agreed course of action.

6.92. The Head of HR should be notified, so they can advise and where required - support the investigation.

Allegations against any other Senior Leader

6.93. Any allegations linked to the site, must be reported to the DSL of the site who will make the initial referral to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO Following this, the allegation should be passed to the identified senior person to follow through with Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and subsequently act in line with agreed course of action. This means that the DSL will retain the responsibility to report the initial concern, but will have no further part in the process regarding gathering any information or, should it be required, in the actual investigation in relation to a senior member.

6.94. Allegations not linked to specific site must be reported to the person's (whom allegation is made against) line manager who will refer the matter to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and act in line with agreed course of action.

6.95. The Head of HR should be notified, so they can advise and where required - support the investigation.

Allegations against the Chief Operating Officer / Head of Children's Services

6.96. Any allegations linked to the site, must be reported to the DSL of the site who will make the initial referral to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO Following this, the allegation should be passed to the identified senior person to follow through with Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and subsequently act in line with agreed course of action. This means that the DSL will retain the responsibility to report the initial concern, but will have no further part in the process regarding gathering any information or, should it be required, in the actual investigation in relation to a senior member.

6.97. Allegations not linked to specific site must be reported to the Chair of the Care Governance Committee - Moira Livingstone - who will refer the matter to local Safeguarding Authority/LADO and act in line with agreed course of action.

6.98. The Head of HR should be notified, so they can advise and where required - support the investigation.

Allegations against the Chief Executive Officer

6.99. Any allegations linked to the site, must be reported to the DSL of the site who will make the initial referral to Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO Following this, the allegation should be passed to the identified senior person to follow through with Somerset Safeguarding Authority/LADO and subsequently act in line with agreed course of action. This means that the DSL will retain the responsibility to report the initial concern, but will have no further part in the process regarding gathering any information or, should it be required, in the actual investigation in relation to a senior member.

6.100. Allegations not linked to a specific site must be reported to the Chair of the Care Governance Committee - Moira Livingstone who will refer the matter to the local Safeguarding Authority/LADO and act in line with agreed course of action.

6.101. The Head of HR should be notified, so they can advise and where required - support the investigation.

Low level concerns

6.102. As part of their whole school approach to safeguarding, schools and colleges should ensure that they promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the school or college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

6.103. Creating a culture in which all concerns about adults (including allegations that do not meet the harms threshold are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical. If implemented correctly, this should encourage an open and transparent culture; enable schools and colleges to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the school or college are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the institution.

6.104. The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold set out in **LADO referral criteria (KCSIE2021) – meeting the harm threshold section. If there is any doubt about whether or not the concern meets LADO referral criteria – LADO should be contacted and advice sought.**

6.105. A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO

6.106. Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children;
- having favourites;
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone (this depend on the circumstances, so it would require DSL assessment and LADO advice)
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

6.107. Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.

6.108. It is crucial that any such concerns, including those which do not meet the harm threshold (see Part Four - Section one), are shared responsibly and with the right person, and recorded and dealt with appropriately. Ensuring they are dealt with effectively should also protect those working in or on behalf of schools and colleges from potential false allegations or misunderstandings.

The initial response to allegation

6.109. Where the school or college identifies a child/young person has been harmed, that there may be an immediate risk of harm to a child/young person or if the situation is an emergency, they should contact the Safeguarding Authority and as appropriate the police immediately as per the processes. There are two aspects to consider when an allegation is made:

- **Looking after the welfare of the child** - the DSL is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care as described in Part one of this guidance.
- **Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation** - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.

6.110. When dealing with allegations, schools and colleges should:

- apply common sense and judgement
- deal with allegations quickly, fairly and consistently; and
- provide effective protection for the child and support the person subject to the allegation.

6.111. Schools and colleges should ensure they understand the local authority arrangements for managing allegations, including the contact details and what information the LADO will require when an allegation is made. Before contacting the LADO, schools and colleges should conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help them determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation, being careful not to jeopardise any future police investigation. For example:

- was the individual in the school or college at the time of the allegations?
- did the individual, or could they have, come into contact with the child?
- are there any witnesses? and,
- was there any CCTV footage?

6.112. These are just a sample of example questions. Services should be familiar with what initial information the LADO will require. This information can be found in local policy and procedural guidance provided by the LADO service. Any enquiries of this nature must be carefully recorded and dated so they can be shared with the HR department to support any investigation.

6.113. When to inform the individual of the allegation should be considered carefully on a case by case basis, with guidance as required from the LADO, and if appropriate Safeguarding Authority and the police.

6.114. If there is cause to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, a strategy discussion involving the police and/or children's social care will be convened in accordance with the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.

6.115. Where it is clear that an investigation by the police or Safeguarding Authority is unnecessary, or the strategy discussion or initial assessment decides that is the case, the LADO should discuss the next steps with the case manager (A 'case manager' will the person leading any investigation. This will be either the DSL/DSL Deputy which is often the Head of College/ Manager or, where the case manager is the subject of an allegation, it will be the Proprietor or a Director nominated by them). A LADO should be informed who will lead investigation to ensure there is no conflict of interest or any other concerns related to the choice of the case manager.

Cambian

No Further Action

6.116. Where the initial discussion initial discussion leads to no further action, the case manager and the LADO should:

- record the decision and justification for it; and,
- agree on what information should be put in writing to the individual concerned and by whom.

Further enquiries

6.117. Where further enquiries are required to enable a decision about how to proceed, the LADO and case manager should discuss how and by whom the investigation will be undertaken. In straightforward cases, the investigation should normally be undertaken by a senior member of the school's or college's staff.

6.118. Where there is a lack of appropriate resource within the school or college, or the nature or complexity of the allegation requires it, the allegation will require a senior member of the off-site team: Regional Manager (Education or Care), a Director, HR Business Partner or an independent investigator if appropriate.

6.119. The case manager should monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible in a thorough and fair process. Reviews should be conducted at fortnightly or monthly intervals, depending on the complexity of the case.

6.120. Wherever possible, the first review should take place no later than four weeks after the initial assessment. Dates for subsequent reviews, ideally at fortnightly intervals, should be set at the review meeting if the investigation continues. The LADO will provide advice and guidance to schools and colleges when considering allegations against adults working with children. The LADO's role is not to investigate the allegation, but to ensure that an appropriate investigation is carried out, whether that is by the police, children's social care, the school or college, or a combination of these.

Suspension

6.121. Suspension should not be an automatic response when an allegation is reported. All options to avoid suspension should be considered prior to taking that step. The case manager must consider carefully whether the circumstances warrant suspension from contact with children at the school or college, or until the allegation is resolved. It should be considered only in cases where there is cause to suspect a child or other children at the college is/are at risk of harm, or the allegation could be considered as gross or serious misconduct. Prior to any suspension, the case manager must consult with their HR Business Partner and the LADO, as well as the police and Safeguarding Authority where they have been involved. More information on suspension and associated process can be found in KCSIE 2021 Part 4 page 86 – 87.

Supporting those involved

6.122. The welfare of a child/young person id paramount (how children should be protected and supported is set out throughout KCSIE2021 guidance) and this will be the prime concern in terms of investigating an allegation against a person in a position of trust. However, when an allegation or safeguarding concern is being investigated it is likely to be a very stressful experience for the adult subject of the investigation, and potentially for the family members. It is important that an employer offers appropriate welfare support at such a time and recognises the sensitivity of the situation. Information is confidential and should not ordinarily be shared with the other staff or with children or parents who are not directly involved in the investigation. More about employers duty of care to their employees can be found in KCSIE2021 part 4/Duty of care.

6.123. Staff whom allegation/s have been made against must always be supported and if suspended they will receive a support person (nominated contact), any suspension is not an indication of guilt.

Allegation outcomes

6.124. The definitions that should be used when schools and colleges determine the outcome of an allegation are set out below:

- Substantiated: there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation;

- Malicious: there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive or cause harm to the person subject of the allegation;
- False: there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation;
- Unsubstantiated: there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence; or
- Unfounded: to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.

6.125. It should be noted that these definitions are available to support the decision-making process. However, in certain cases, in the absence of any substantiating evidence, the Company may still progress through the formal disciplinary procedure if there are reasonable grounds to do so, or there is a reasonable belief that an employee has committed an act of misconduct.

6.126. Ultimately the options open to the school or college depend on the nature and circumstances of the allegations and the evidence and information available. This will range from taking no further action, to dismissal or a decision not to use the person's services in future. Suspension should not be the default position, an individual should be suspended only if there is no reasonable alternative (see paragraphs 361-368 on suspension).

Serious incident reporting

6.127. In addition to all regulatory reporting requirements, all serious incidents will be escalated and reported as outlined in **035. SUI Part 1 – Risk Categories - Reference form and SUI Part 2 –Briefing form.**

Death of someone in our care including rapid response to unexpected death

6.128. In case of **unexpected death** of a child/young person/adult in Cambian services all staff to follow the rapid response process described below:

- **Call the Ambulance and Police**
- Unless the 999 operator tells you to, do not touch the person, do not move anything around them which may form part of forensic evidence. Police will make a decision about the forensic examinations and appropriate security of the scene.
- DSL will contact Safeguarding Authority and follow the Serious Untoward Incidents (SUI) reporting procedure. The DSL will contact the Managing Director of the division they work in and verbally inform them of what happened before completing SUI Part 2.
- DSL will contact Children's/Adults Social Care Team
- Where there is a suicide/suspected suicide then Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should also be notified by the Safeguarding Authority.

6.129. Once the above rapid steps have been taken, further steps described below must be followed.

6.130. In the event of the death of an Individual in one of our homes/schools/colleges we must notify the following within 24 hours:

- Chief Operating Officer, Managing Director, Responsible/Nominated Individual, Regional Manager following the **35.01. Caretech Children's services SUI process.**
- Next of kin/parents/carer of the deceased.
- Where the death of an individual occurs in an education location the assistance of the local police and social services department should be sought in informing the parents/guardians.
- The appropriate regulatory body: e.g. Ofsted & CQC
- Ministry of justice if applicable.
- The placing authority/authorities.

- The local authority responsible for Social Services and Education (where the death takes place in a registered school) within whose area the education location is situated.
- The District Health Authority within whose area the education location is situated.
- The Department for Education, (where the death takes place in a registered school).
- The Health and Safety Executive.

Abuse of position of trust

6.131. All staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards those in our care is unacceptable. In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person over the age of 18 to have a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18, where that person is in a position of trust, even if the relationship is consensual. This means that any sexual activity between a member of the staff and a young person under 18 may be a criminal offence, even if that young person is over the age of consent.

Visitors

6.132. All authorised visitors will be required to sign in and out, and wear a visitor or identity badge at all times. All unauthorised visitors will be challenged by staff and reported to the home manager/Head of College before entry is authorised.

Volunteers

6.133. Volunteers undergo checks commensurate with their work in the home/school/college and contact with children, young people and adults i.e. if they are in regulated activity or not.

Contractors

6.134. We will check the identity of all contractors working on site and requests the full range of DBS and other required checks where they work in regulated activity or unsupervised in accordance with the latest government guidance.

Use of school or college premises for non-school/college activities

6.135. Where governing bodies or proprietors hire or rent out school or college facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) they should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe. More information can be found in KCSIE2021 Part 2 para 155 & 156.

Extended school and off-site arrangements

6.136. Where extended off-site activities are provided by and managed by us, our safeguarding policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures and clarify whose procedure is to be followed if there are concerns. There will be clear communication channels to ensure the DSL is kept appropriately informed.

6.137. When our Individuals are doing off-site activities, including day and residential visits and work related activities, we will risk assess and check that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place. The DSL will be kept appropriately informed.

Use of mobile phones

6.138. Staff must behave in accordance with the **GHR 11. Staff Code of Conduct** and Internet and social media access including **Pro 01. Mobile Telephony Policy** at all times.

6.139. All computer equipment and internet access within the college is subject to 'parental controls' and internet safety rules in line with our **0. 27. E-safety policy** including internet and social media access and **0.21. Anti-bullying policy**. Staff should not use any computer for personal reasons during working hours. Staff need to help our Individuals to prepare for the hazards whilst promoting the many learning and social opportunities available through the internet and social media.

6.140. If staff contribute to internet blogs or access social media networking sites e.g. Facebook, they MUST neither mention Lufton College or make reference to their employment at the college. Staff are advised not to communicate with parents, guardians, carers or Individuals via social networking sites

Photography and images

6.141. This section should be read in conjunction to our **GIG 02. Data Protection policy.**

6.142. The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of Individuals do so for entirely innocent and acceptable reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children or vulnerable young people through taking or using images, so we have some safeguards in place.

6.143. To protect our children, young people or young adults we will:

- seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in newspapers or publications)
- seek parental consent of consent from the Individual
- not use their full name with an image, only their initials
- ensure that personal data is not shared
- store images appropriately, securely and for no longer than necessary
- only use school equipment, i.e. not personal devices
- encourage our children, young people and adults to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them

Physical intervention and use of reasonable force

6.144. All staff are encouraged to use de-escalation techniques and creative alternative strategies that are specific to each Individual and in line with **0.45 Behaviour support policy** and **0.46 Physical Intervention policy** and training. Restraint will only be used as a last resort and all incidents of this are reviewed, recorded and monitored.

Staff Taking Medication or other substances

6.145. Staff members must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which may affect their ability to care for the Individuals. If they are taking medication they should seek medical advice and inform the Home Manager/Head of College who will review the medical advice and take a decision as to whether they are fit for work.

6.146. We only allow staff to work if medical advice confirms that their ability to look after Individuals is unlikely to be impaired. Should a member of staff need to bring their medication to the home/school/college, it must be securely stored and out of reach of all children, young people and young adults. This section should be read in conjunction with our **GHR 12 Drug and Alcohol Policy.**

Information for individuals and relatives/carers

6.147. Individuals and carers will be informed that their concerns or complaints will be taken seriously, be dealt with independently and that they will be kept involved in the process to the degree that they wish to be. They will be reassured that they will receive help and support in taking action.

6.148. They will also be advised that they can nominate an advocate or representative to speak and act on their behalf if they wish. For individuals assessed as lacking capacity to make decisions about how they could be protected, an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) must be considered and may be appointed. They will be advised of rights to legal aid in where appropriate to victim support and compensation.

Recruitment and vetting

6.149. Our **GHR 03. Recruitment Policy** reflects Safer Recruitment guidelines and legislation in **Appendix 2. Legislation and guidance** as well as carrying out further checks and precautions such as Good Conduct Certificates. Head of Colleges, DSLs and members of Recruitment team including those directly supporting schools should read the whole KCSIE2021 guidance including Part 3 dedicated to Safer Recruitment.

6.150. Each Education location maintains a **Single Central Record (SCR).** This covers all staff including supply teaching and teacher trainees, agency care staff as well as multisite managers and members of the proprietor body. This is regularly audited by the school/college SLT and available for inspection.

6.151. For agency workers we obtain written confirmation that all checks have been completed, in line with safer recruitment from the employment business that is supplying the member of agency staff. All Locations must ensure that an agreement exists between the Location and the agency to confirm that, in the event of there being a disclosure on a DBS certificate, the Location will have sight of the certificate before that person can begin work at the home/school/college.

6.152. All Locations must check the identity of any person deemed 'supply' or 'agency' staff separately to the agency.

6.153. Where other Cambian staff (e.g. care staff) work on the same site as a school they must be subject to the same recruitment regulations and procedures as the education staff.

Requirements to inform Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS)

6.154. The employer has a legal duty to make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required.

6.155. Services will promptly make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (but no longer than one month after leaving the Location) if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have been had they not resigned.

6.156. In the case of a member of teaching staff at a school or sixth form college, the case manager must consider whether to refer the matter to the TRA to consider prohibiting the individual from teaching (paragraph 143 for further information).

6.157. Referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service will be made for any person (whether employed, contracted (e.g. supply, a volunteer or student) whose services are no longer required because he/she is considered unsuitable to work with children and young people.

6.158. This is a legal duty and failure to refer when the criteria are met is a criminal offence. More detail is provided at paragraph 179.

6.159. All Managers must read the Group leavers policy – all referrals must be recorded with HR so they can ensure any future references are correct. The references team log referrals so this can be completed. This will apply to both: DBS and TRA.

Record-keeping

6.160. Record keeping is an important element of safeguarding. Whenever a complaint or allegation of abuse is made, staff must keep clear and accurate records using a Concern Form.

6.161. All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child. Schools/colleges using Databridge have Concern/Safeguarding function to record any concerns being raised.

6.162. Records should be factual, accurate, concise, ethical and relevant.

6.163. All recording of written information should be legible and discussions with other professionals and agencies should be recorded chronologically.

6.164. There will be a safeguarding section/folder which will hold any concerns/safeguarding documentation. At the front of each folder there is an Index for Individual's Concerns. This is to enable the location to keep accurate records of any concerns raised regarding the individual and aid the monitoring/ reviewing of safeguarding incidents. The folders should be kept in a secure location.

6.165. Each location will also maintain **25.07. Central Log of Concerns and Safeguarding** of all concerns raised at the location including the safeguarding information where the concern has escalated. At Lufton College this is kept electronically and access is restricted to the DSL and deputies only, and is kept in a drive only accessible to the Safeguarding Team.

Monitoring

6.166. A quality assurance cycle operates to ensure that safeguarding incidents and notifications are recorded, managed and responded to at the Location, at a regional level and at a whole divisional level, see **section 9. Accountability**. The cycle is informed by a weekly (Monday) submission of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) using **CambianKPI** and the identification and management of safeguarding risks. A report on the position of every site in relation to their KPIs is produced every Wednesday.

Training

6.167. All staff will receive information regarding Child Protection and Safeguarding on induction. The induction introduces the new staff member to the policy, procedure and practice at the location. They will also be orientated as to where to find information regarding safeguarding including relevant posters around the location. As part of their induction all staff are required to read this policy and confirm that they understand their role in safeguarding and protecting young people within the service they are going to work.

6.168. All staff MUST complete mandatory safeguarding face to face or online training via MYRUS which must be completed as part of staff member induction and annually thereafter. This should include online safety. This is to maintain staff awareness of their responsibilities in relation to children /young people/young adult's safeguarding.

6.169. Staff will not be allowed to work with Individuals unless they have completed the above training. The college must check that supply/agency staff have completed basic awareness training before being allowed into contact with Individuals.

6.170. Contractors and others on site who might have unsupervised access to Individuals must also complete basic awareness training before being allowed to start work.

6.171. The DSL will ensure that all staff receive regular updates regarding safeguarding policy, procedure and practice throughout the year. This can be undertaken in various forums: as a face to face or online session, staff meetings or workshops. In addition to this safeguarding updates are provided to schools and colleges by the external Safeguarding Network.

6.172. The DSL and DSL Deputies should undergo the same level of training providing them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. The DSL's/DSL Deputies' training should be provided by the LA within the boundaries they operate and be refreshed at least every two years. Both should also undertake Prevent awareness training.

Confidentiality and information sharing

6.173. Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting child's/young person's welfare, including their educational outcomes. Schools and colleges have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes. Staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children/ young people whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care.

6.174. Where the police are involved, wherever possible the school or college should ask the police to obtain consent from the individuals involved to share their statements and evidence for use in the employer's disciplinary process. This should be done as their investigation proceeds and will enable the police to share relevant information without delaying the conclusion of their investigation or any court case.

6.175. The Safeguarding authority should adopt a similar procedure when making enquiries to determine whether the child or children named in the allegation are in need of protection or services, so that any information obtained in the course of those enquiries which is relevant to a disciplinary case can be passed to the employer without delay.

6.176. The case manager should take advice from the LADO, police and Safeguarding Authority to agree the following:

- who needs to know and exactly what information can be shared;
- how to manage speculation, leaks and gossip
- what, if any, information can be reasonably given to the wider community to reduce speculation; and
- how to manage press interest if, and when, it should arise.

6.177. Exchange or disclose of personal information with other agencies will be completed in accordance with **GIG 02. Data Protection and GIG 09. Confidentiality** and all relevant legislation including the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR which places duty on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure.

6.178. Information relating to individual Safeguarding cases is confidential, although some information can be shared with relevant staff. This should be done only on a 'need to know' basis.

6.179. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure relevant staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. This includes:

- being confident of the processing conditions which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.
- understanding that 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner but it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk.
- for schools, not providing pupils' personal data where the serious harm test under the legislation is met. For example, in a situation where a child is in a refuge or another form of emergency accommodation, and the serious harms test is met, they must withhold providing the data in compliance with schools' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. Where in doubt schools should seek independent legal advice.

6.180. When sharing safeguarding information regarding an individual, staff will need to consider the following:

- Information should only be shared on a 'need to know' basis when it is in the best interests of the individual
- Informed consent should be obtained but, if this is not possible and other adults are at risk of abuse or neglect, it may be necessary to override the requirement
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Ensure you are giving the right information about the right person
- Ensure you are sharing information securely

- Inform the person that the information has been shared if they were not already aware of this and if it would not create or increase risk of harm to them/others.

6.181. The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

6.182. Further details on information sharing can be found in:

- Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children , which includes a myth-busting guide to information sharing
- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers . The seven golden rules for sharing information will be especially useful
- The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) , which includes ICO GDPR FAQs and guidance from the department
- Data protection: toolkit for schools - Guidance to support schools with data protection activity, including compliance with the GDPR.

6.183. The following wording is to be added to any covering letter where we are sharing documentation:

"*The material contained in this letter and its enclosures are confidential to Cambian Group and the persons named within the documentation. The documentation is delivered only in accordance with a perceived legal obligation to make the documentation available and upon the strict understanding that the recipient and all members of the recipient's staff will undertake to preserve confidentiality and not in any way share the documentation or any details of the information therein contained with any other party. Any person receiving this information who breaches these obligations of confidentiality will be held strictly responsible and will be expected to indemnify Cambian Group and any persons named within the documentation against any losses that may arise as a result of misuse of this material".*

6.184. If in doubt, the DSL or deputies must liaise with the company Caldicott Guardian. The contact details for the Caldicott Guardian at our location is Sarah Longley-Cook.

6.185. Failure to follow this policy and local procedure may result in disciplinary action.

Complaints and Monitoring

6.186. All complaints arising from the operation of this policy will be considered under the **0.22 complaints procedure**, with reference to the our Designated Safeguarding Lead who is Sophia Cursons (DSL) and Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board

7. Accountability

7.1. Sophia Cursons is the DSL at Lufton College and has lead responsibility for protecting and safeguarding children, young people and young adults and liaising with the local authority and other local agencies as appropriate. This includes young person protections, referrals, raising awareness, training, allocating resources and supporting/directing staff within the Location. In all matters relating to young person protection and safeguarding Lufton College will follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

7.2. The content and effective implementation of policy and procedures are subject to routine monitoring by the Head of College. Our Managing/ Operations Director, Andrew Sutherland will undertake a full annual review of the content and effective application of this policy and associated procedures. The date for the next scheduled review is set out on page 2. The policy will be reviewed earlier in accordance with changes in legislation, regulatory requirements or as a result of best practice guidance.

7.3. Safeguarding at a strategic level is overseen by Amanda Sherlock - the Group Executive Director Compliance, who will support and promote the development of initiatives to improve the prevention, identification and response to abuse and neglect. As the Director accountable for safeguarding, she is also responsible for reporting on safeguarding and providing executive leadership.

7.4. Managers - are responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of this policy and offer support to those reporting abuse. It is important to recognise that dealing with situations involving abuse and neglect can be stressful and distressing for staff.

7.5. Regulated professionals - Staff governed by professional regulation (for example, social workers, doctors, allied health professionals and nurses) should understand how their professional standards and requirements underpin their organisational roles to prevent, recognise and respond to abuse and neglect.

7.6. All staff are responsible for identifying and responding to allegations of abuse. Staff at operational level need to share a common view of what types of behaviour may be abuse or neglect and what should be an initial response to suspicion or allegation of abuse or neglect.

7.7. All staff MUST make sure that they have familiarised themselves with their local multi-agency safeguarding policy as this policy is designed to complement rather than replace the multi-agency policies which define the local practice that must be followed.

7.8. In the event that the DSL or DSL Deputy are on leave or away from the Location and not contactable alternative arrangements must be put in place, cascaded to staff and displayed so staff can access contact names and details if required.

8. Further Safeguarding information – what everyone need to know (Appendix 11)

8.1. All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and or alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk. Other safeguarding issues such as peer on peer (child on child) abuse all staff should be aware of are explored in the **Appendix 11. Further Safeguarding information – what everyone need to know.**

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Relevant policies and documents

1. Child Protection and Safeguarding

a) 25.01 - Index Form for Individuals Concern File

b) 25.02 - Abuse Poster Individual

c) 25.03 - Individual Safeguarding booklet – Easy Read

d) 25.04 - Concern Form

e) 25.05 - Safeguarding Tracking Pack

f) 25.06 – Visitor Information Leaflet template

g) 25.07 – Central Log of Concerns and Safeguarding – excel version

h) 25.08 – Guidance to staff who had an allegation made against them

i) 25.09 – Local Safeguarding procedure

j) 25.10 – Staff Safeguarding Information poster

k) 25.11 – Guidance notes for Designated or On call person

l) 25.12 – Static body chart

m) 25.13 – Weekly body chart

n) 25.14 – Guidance for Investigating Unexplained Body Marks

o) 25.15 – Guidance to Child Protection and Safeguarding at Cambian

2. Whistleblowing
3. Anti-bullying
4. Child Sexual Exploitation
5. Intimate and Invasive Care
6. Self-harm and suicide
7. Behaviour Support
8. Physical Intervention
9. Complaints Policy
10. Health
11. E –safety
12. Capacity to consent
13. Prevent
14. Recruitment
15. Code of Conduct
16. Data Protection
17. Confidentiality
18. E- safety
19. Disciplinary
20. Complaints
21. Code of Practice
22. Mobile telephony
23. SUI Caretech children's services process
24. Caretech - Group Leaving Policy
25. GHR 02 – Harassment and Bullying
26. GHR 41 – Reference Requests
27. GHR 41.1 DBS referral log

Appendix 2: Legislation and guidance

- The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Statutory Instrument 2015 No.541 Social Care, England The Young people's/care home Homes (England) Regulations 2015 in force as of 1st April 2015
- Guide to the Young people's/care home Homes Regulations including the Quality Standards (DfE: April 2015)
- This policy is also in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Young people Board (LSCP) locally agreed inter-agency safeguarding processes and procedures
- Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (March 2015) (Prevent). Prevent is supplemented by The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and young person minders (June 2015) and The use of social media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015)
- The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2015
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015)
- Terrorism Act 2000
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- The School staffing regulations , England 2009
- The Teachers Disciplinary regulations, 2012
- Parts 3 and 4 Schedule to the Education independent Schools Standard Regulations, 2014.
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008
- All Wales POVA Guidance 2008
- Keep learners Safe 2015
- The Care Act 2014
- Social services and wellbeing Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Keeping children safe in Education 2021
- Keeping children safe in education - part one 2021
- Regulated activity in relation to children: scope
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges 2021
- Violence against women and girls
- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/safer-recruitment/
- Teaching_online_safety_in_school.pdf

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Appendix 3: Child Protection and safeguarding procedure (Flow chart)

DSL – Designated Safeguarding Lead
CAF – Common Assessment framework
CSC – Children's Social Care
LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer

STAFF

Child / Young Adult

Consistent explanation or minor accident

Suspected physical injury, or any report of alleged abuse, including peer on peer

Disclosure/allegation of sexual abuse/harassment including peer on peer

Allegation against staff volunteer/other third party

In an emergency dial 999, otherwise:

Make a note, keeping all original hand written notes

Serious incident or recurrent episodes or inconsistent explanations

Avoid asking leading questions/young adult, don't promise confidentiality, but provide reassurance

REPORT within 1 hour to the DSL or DSL Deputy (if DSL is not available)

If allegation against the Head / DSL /Proprietor follow specific steps described in section allegations made against specific people

DSL

Record all details on **Concern Form and pass it on to the DSL/Deputy**. Use body map to record visible injuries. NB. This is recorded by the first person the child/anyone else spoke to as soon as possible/no longer than 24 hours.

DSL /Deputy will have access to the necessary information: Name/Address/DOB/Siblings/GP and any other information held. The designated safeguarding lead will make an initial assessment of the situation and follow the most appropriate route

→ Monitor the situation

Work with the family through the CAF process where applicable

If it is a safeguarding concern the next sequential Safeguarding Log number will be allocated/ services using Behaviour Watch: the concern number will be given by the system once concern is recorded, and local Safeguarding Authority/LADO contacted as per Local Safeguarding Protocol. Designated safeguarding lead will follow advice from any of the professional above. If a safeguarding concern is confirmed then a safeguarding process MUST be followed and Safeguarding Tracking Pack is opened/Services using Behaviour Watch: Concern slip has a Safeguarding Tracking pack built in.

DSL to inform those that need to know in the service and record details. DSL MUST ensure that the chronology of events is **continuously** updated to reflect on advice received and actions already taken. Receive feedback from Safeguarding authority and work with the social worker if the case becomes open to a team.

→ Local Safeguarding Authority/LADO will make the judgement and communicate with the school/ home in relation to the next step.

Appendix 4: Types of abuse – children

- **Abuse**: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children
- **Physical abuse:** a form of abuse which may involve hitting, slapping, 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.
- **Emotional abuse**: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.
- **Sexual abuse:** Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or 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. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue (also known as peer on peer abuse) in education and all staff should be aware of it and of their school or colleges policy and procedures for dealing with it,
- **Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation** are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation Child Sexual Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
- **Neglect:** the 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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer 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); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

- **Online abuse** - abuse that is facilitated using internet-connected technology. It may take place through social media, online games or other channels of digital communication. Children can also be re-victimised if evidence of their abuse is recorded or uploaded online. Technology can facilitate a number of illegal abusive behaviours including, but not limited to: harassment; stalking; threatening behaviour; child sexual abuse material; inciting a child to sexual activity; sexual exploitation; grooming; sexual communication with a child; and, causing a child to view images or watch videos of a sexual act. Using technology to facilitate any of the above activities is online abuse. Alongside those illegal activities that are perpetrated online and constitute abuse, children may also be exposed to online harms, such as inappropriate behaviours or content online. For instance, children may be bullied online by their peers or they might, either accidentally or intentionally, view content which is intended for adults. Both online abuse and exposure to unsuitable content or behaviour can have a long-lasting impact on the wellbeing of children and young people.

Appendix 5: Types of abuse - adults

- **Physical abuse** - assault, hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, hair-pulling, biting, pushing, rough handling, scalding and burning, physical punishments, inappropriate or unlawful use of restraint, making someone purposefully uncomfortable, involuntary isolation or confinement, misuse of medication, forcible feeding or withholding food, unauthorized restraint, restricting movement.
- **Honour based abuse -** encompasses Incidents/crimes which have been committed to protect/defend the honour of the family and/or the community including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBA are abuse (regardless if the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.
- **Domestic violence or abuse** – this type of abuse can be characterised by any of the indicators of abuse outlined in this briefing relating to: psychological, physical, sexual financial, emotional. Domestic violence and abuse includes 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.
- **Sexual abuse** - Rape, attempted rape or sexual assault, inappropriate touch anywhere, non-consensual masturbation of either or both persons, non- consensual sexual penetration or attempted penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth, any sexual activity that the person lacks the capacity to consent to, inappropriate looking, sexual teasing or innuendo or sexual harassment, sexual photography or forced use of pornography or witnessing of sexual acts, Indecent exposure.
- **Sexual harassment**- unwanted conducts of a sexual nature that can occur online and offline, sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.
- **Psychological or emotional abuse** - Enforced social isolation and/or preventing someone accessing services, educational and social opportunities and seeing friends, removing mobility or communication aids or intentionally leaving someone unattended when they need assistance, preventing someone from meeting their religious and cultural needs, preventing the expression of choice and opinion, failure to respect privacy, preventing stimulation, meaningful occupation or activities, intimidation, coercion, harassment, use of threats, humiliation, bullying, swearing or verbal abuse, addressing a person in a patronising or infantilising way, threats of harm or abandonment, cyber bullying.
- **Financial or material abuse** - Theft of money or possessions, scamming, preventing a person from accessing their own money, benefits or assets, employees taking a loan from a person using the service, undue pressure, duress, threat or undue influence put on the person in connection with loans, wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, arranging less care than is needed to save money to maximise inheritance, denying assistance to manage/monitor financial affairs, denying assistance to access benefits, misuse of personal allowance in a care home, misuse of benefits or direct payments in a family home, someone moving into a person's home and living rent free without agreement or under duress, false representation, using another person's bank account, cards or documents, exploitation of a person's money or assets, e.g. unauthorised use of a car, misuse of a power of attorney, deputy, appointeeship or other legal authority.

- **Modern slavery** – Human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, such as escort work, prostitution and pornography, debt bondage – being forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to.
- **Discriminatory abuse** - Unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation (known as 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010). Verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic, denying access to communication aids, not allowing access to an interpreter, signer or lip-reader, harassment or deliberate exclusion on the grounds of a protected characteristic, denying basic rights to healthcare, education, employment and criminal justice relating to a protected characteristic, substandard service provision relating to a protected characteristic.
- **Organisational or institutional abuse** - Discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives or friends, run-down or overcrowded establishment, authoritarian management or rigid regime, lack of leadership and supervision, insufficient staff or high turnover resulting in poor quality care, abusive and disrespectful attitudes towards people using the service, inappropriate use of restraints, lack of respect for dignity and privacy, failure to manage residents with abusive behaviour, not providing adequate food and drink, or assistance with eating, not offering choice or promoting independence, misuse of medication, failure to provide care with dentures, spectacles or hearing aids, not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs, failure to respond to abuse appropriately, interference with personal correspondence or communication, failure to respond to complaints.
- **Neglect or acts of omission** - Failure to provide or allow access to food, shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity, personal or medical care, providing care in a way that the person dislikes, failure to administer medication as prescribed, refusal of access to visitors, not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs, not taking account of educational, social and recreational needs, ignoring or isolating the person, preventing the person from making their own decisions, preventing access to glasses, hearing aids, dentures, etc., failure to ensure privacy and dignity.
- **Self-neglect** -The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance for adults includes self-neglect in the categories of abuse or neglect relevant to safeguarding adults with care and support needs. In some circumstances, where there is a serious risk to the health and wellbeing of an individual, it may be appropriate to raise self-neglect as a safeguarding concern. However, interventions for self-neglect are usually more appropriate under the parts of the Care Act dealing with assessment, planning, information and advice, and prevention.

Appendix 6: Signs that someone could be a victim

Physical abuse

- No explanation for injuries or an inconsistent account of what happened
- Injuries that don't seem likely, given the person's lifestyle
- Bruising, cuts, welts, burns, marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps
- Frequent injuries
- Unexplained falls
- Subdued or changed behaviour in the presence of a particular person
- Signs of malnutrition (not having enough to eat)
- Failure to seek medical treatment or frequent changes of GP

Sexual abuse

- Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Bleeding, pain or itching in the genital area
- Unusual difficulty in walking or sitting
- Foreign bodies in genital or rectal openings
- Infections, unexplained genital discharge, or sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy in a child or young person who cannot consent to sexual intercourse
- Using unexpectedly explicit sexual language
- Major changes in sexual behaviour or attitude
- Incontinence not to do with a medical condition
- Self-harming
- Poor concentration, withdrawal, sleep disturbance
- Excessive fear of or withdrawal from relationships
- Fear of receiving help with personal care
- Not wanting to be alone with a particular person

Psychological or emotional abuse

- An air of silence when a particular person is present
- Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person
- Insomnia (not sleeping)
- Low self-esteem
- Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour
- A change of appetite, weight loss or gain
- Signs of distress: tearfulness, anger
- Apparent false claims by someone involved with the person, to attract unnecessary treatment

Neglect and acts of omission

- Poor environment – dirty or unhygienic
- Poor physical condition and/or personal hygiene
- Pressure sores or ulcers
- Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss
- Untreated injuries and medical problems
- Inconsistent or reluctant contact with medical and social care organizations
- A build-up of medication that hasn't been taken
- Uncharacteristic failure to engage in social interaction
- Unsuitable clothing or not enough clothes

Domestic abuse

- becoming anxious or depressed
- having difficulty sleeping
- complaining of physical symptoms such as tummy aches
- starting to wet their bed
- behaving as though they are much younger than they are
- having problems with school
- becoming aggressive or they may internalise their distress and withdraw from other people
- having a lowered sense of self-worth
- older children may begin to play truant or start to use alcohol or drugs
- they beginning to self-harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves

Peer on Peer abuse

- absence from school or disengagement from school activities
- physical injuries
- mental or emotional health issues
- becoming withdrawn – lack of self esteem
- lack of sleep
- alcohol or substance misuse
- changes in behavior
- inappropriate behavior doe age
- abusive towards others

Appendix 7: Signs that someone could be an abuser

- Using restraint when it's not needed
- Having favourites
- Giving treats, presents or money to certain people without permission from a manager
- Finding ways to spend time with a particular child, young person or young adult, perhaps by working longer hours or giving up free time
- Finding ways to spend time alone with a particular child, young person or young adult, for example in a car or somewhere else
- Inviting a particular child, young person or young adult at risk to their own house without permission from a manager
- Being over-friendly with a child, young person or young adult's parents or guardians without permission from a manager
- Taking photos of the child, young person or young adult that aren't for work purposes
- Trying to make private contact with a particular child, young person or young adult, including by text, email, mobile phone, online or in letter
- Finding ways to have physical contact, like play-fighting or tickling
- Keeping collections of toys or other items that might attract children or people at risk
- controlling behaviour
- Narcissistic characteristics
- bullying
- being forced into a sexual act
- humiliation
- constant yelling and shouting
- the threat or use of violence
- destroying personal items
- limiting contact with family, friends and work colleagues
- checking up on your whereabouts
- accusing the child/young person (the victim), of committing the abuse when it is the other way around.

Appendix 8: DSL/DSL Deputy – actions, reporting and recording procedure

- Staff notifies the DSL of their concern as soon as it is possible but no later than within 1 hour from the moment of disclosure/report from the child/young person/other person, completes and passes the Concern form as soon as it is possible, but no later than 24hrs from the moment of disclosure/report. If the DSL is unavailable, passes it on to the DSL Deputy. Services using Databridge: staff must report their concern by completing the Concern/Safeguarding event log in the system.

- DSL/DSL Deputy enters the concern details on the **25.07. Central Log of Concerns and Safeguarding** and inserts the concern reference number on the Concern Form. Services using Databridge – DSL/DSL Deputy reviews the concern and decides on the next step which may lead to Safeguarding Tracking Pack being opened.

- If it is deemed to be a child protection/safeguarding (children and adults) matter the DSL/DSL Deputy will then also additionally allocate the next sequential Safeguarding Reference number on the **25.07. Central Log of Concerns and Safeguarding**, write this number on the Concern form and immediately (or at least within one hour of receiving the concern form, make a referral to the local Safeguarding Authority and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) where required, to discuss the allegation and agree a course of action.

- If the local Safeguarding Authority/LADO confirms that they do not consider the matter to be a safeguarding concern, then the date and time of the contact is recorded on the Concern Form and on the Central Log of Concerns and Safeguarding and it is marked as a Safeguarding Level 1 – Initial Informal Investigation. The Head of Service, DSL/DLS Deputy MUST ensure that a member of their Senior Management Team is assigned to look into the concern. The review must be recorded and outcomes shared with the people involved. Feedback from the review session MUST be provided to local Safeguarding Authority/LADO.

- It is important to allocate a Safeguarding reference on the log even if no further action needs to be taken. This diligent approach will ensure a clear historic record of contact with local Safeguarding Authority/LADO for any matter which is deemed by the DSL to be of concern and has been raised with the local Safeguarding Authority/LADO whichever appropriate.

- If the local Safeguarding Authority/LADO confirms that the matter is a safeguarding concern and that it requires investigation either at internal or external level then a **25.05 Safeguarding Tracking pack** must be opened with the next sequential Safeguarding Reference included on the form and details as such entered on the central log.

- Copy of **25.05 Safeguarding Tracking Pack** (initially with completed sec. 1-5) should be submitted to the **Responsible/Nominated Individual and** in day schools - **Regional Education Manager** as a follow up to the initial reporting telephone contact. STP must be sent again to **Responsible/Nominated Individual and Regional Education Manager** on completion, providing detailed overview of the actions taken and the final outcome. Services using the Behaviour Watch will be able to trigger live notification to the Regional Manager (Education/Care), Responsible/Nominated Individual and Registered Manager – where appropriate. The **Responsible/Nominated Individual and Regional Education Manager** in day schools will update relevant Directors. This original form will be saved in the Safeguarding file/Databridge Event Log.

- In the case of serious harm, and/or the child/young person or young adult is in immediate danger the local Police should be informed immediately as well and they can take immediate protective action as necessary.

- If the matter is a more general concern then ensure that the 'Action Taken' log on the concern form is completed and the form is filed within the Safeguarding file. Either way the form must be signed by the DSL/DSL Deputy.

- The relevant concern form should be referenced in the Individual's **25.01 Index form for Individual concern/safeguarding file** and the site's **25.07 Central Log of Concerns and Safeguarding.**

- All information relating to the Safeguarding concern is recorded on the **25.05 Safeguarding Tracking Pack /Behaviour Watch Concern/SG module.**

- The Safeguarding Concern will remain open until local Safeguarding Authority/LADO have confirmed in writing that the concern is closed and Responsible/Nominated Individual and Regional Education Manager in day schools has signed the Safeguarding tracking pack to confirm that the investigation is completed in full and can be closed. **The Safeguarding will remain open until both elements of sign-off have been completed.** Once the Safeguarding tracking Pack is signed, it MUST be filed in the Safeguarding file.

- If it is believed that the Individual is in imminent danger urgent advice should be sought from the Local Authority and/or the police. The individual can be kept in their care home or on the school/college site fully supported (e.g. if they are a day student) if advised to do so.

- The parent/carers should be informed and a decision should be made with the Local Authority and the Police about what action is to be taken and whom by.

- If the DSL/DSL Deputy is unsure about what the Individual has said or what has been said by others they can phone the Local Authority to discuss concerns. To do so would not constitute an abuse referral but may help to clarify the situation but they must record all details of any conversation and advice received on a concern form. He/she can then move to a formal referral or actively monitor the situation.

- The local Safeguarding Authority/LADO will oversee any subsequent investigation of any suspicion or allegation of abuse directed against anyone working within the establishment. The establishment MUST not internally investigate any allegations of abuse without first taking instruction from the local Safeguarding Authority/LADO.

- Once agreed by local Safeguarding Authority/LADO that the provider can commence the internal management investigation (level 2), the investigation process will commence.

- Once agreed by local Safeguarding Authority/LADO that the investigation will be completed by the external agency (level 3), Head of Service, DSL/DSL Deputy will take appropriate steps to assist the external agency to ensure the investigation is completed without a delay.

- Registered Manager MUST notify relevant regulator by submitting specific statutory notification within the time frame specified by their regulator. This is regardless of who leads on the investigation and whether or not the investigation has been concluded.

- If as the result of an investigation there has been a substantiated allegation against a member of staff, we will work with the local Safeguarding Authority/LADO to determine whether there are any improvements to be made to our safeguarding policy, procedures and practice to prevent similar events in the future. Also we will work with our internal Human Resources department and may commence proceedings under **GHR 27. Disciplinary policy and procedure.**

- We will co-operate entirely with any investigation carried out by the Local Authority and/or the Police. Records are kept of all conversations as part of the investigation process and made available as required.

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Appendix 9: Key contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Sophia Cursons, Head of College & Registered Manager

Telephone (24hrs)	07766 141296	Sophia.Cursons@cambiangroup.com

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead are:

Emily Casey	Deputy Head of Care	07860 189681	Emily.Casey@cambiangroup.com
Derrick Goddard	Deputy Head of Education	07803 249348	Derrick.Goddard@Cambiangroup.com
Emily Martina	Data Analyst	01935 415907	Emily.Martina@cambiangroup.com
Tracy Palmer	Administration Manager	01935 403120	Tracy.Palmer@cambiangroup.com

Other Safeguarding Team Members are:

Jade Tillson	Deputy Head of Care	07525 632977	Jade.Tillson@Cambiangroup.com
Hannah Hastilow	Head of Education	07748 788627	Hannah.Hastilow@Cambiangroup.com

Head of Service is:

Sophia Cursons	Head of College & Registered Manager	07766 141296	Sophia.Cursons@cambiangroup.com

Cambian Regional Leads are:

Hayley Lukaszewski	Education Care Lead	07585 304047	Hayley.Lukaszewski@cambiangroup.com
Simon Brown	SEN Education	07425 649720	Simon.Brown@cambiangroup.com

Operations Director is:

Andrew Sutherland	Managing Director For Education	0208 735 6150	Andrew.Sutherland@cambiangroup.com

Directorate (Education or Residential Services)

Safeguarding lead and proprietor for Residential Services is **John Ivers**, Group Chief Operating Officer (COO)

John Ivers	0208 735 6150	John.Ivers@Cambiangroup.com

Local authority / Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership/ Local Safeguarding Adult's Board

The name and contact details for the Local Safeguarding Board is as follows:

Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Telephone (24hrs): 0300 123 2224

Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

Telephone (24hrs): 0300 123 2224

Office hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00am-5:15pm, Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Outside of office hours you call also call:

Avon & Somerset Police 101 or in an emergency 999

For young people under the age of 18:

The **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** is **Anthony Goble**

Telephone: 0300 123 2224 (Office hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00am-5:15pm, Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. Outside of office hours/weekends, the emergency duty team can be contacted on: 0300 123 2224).

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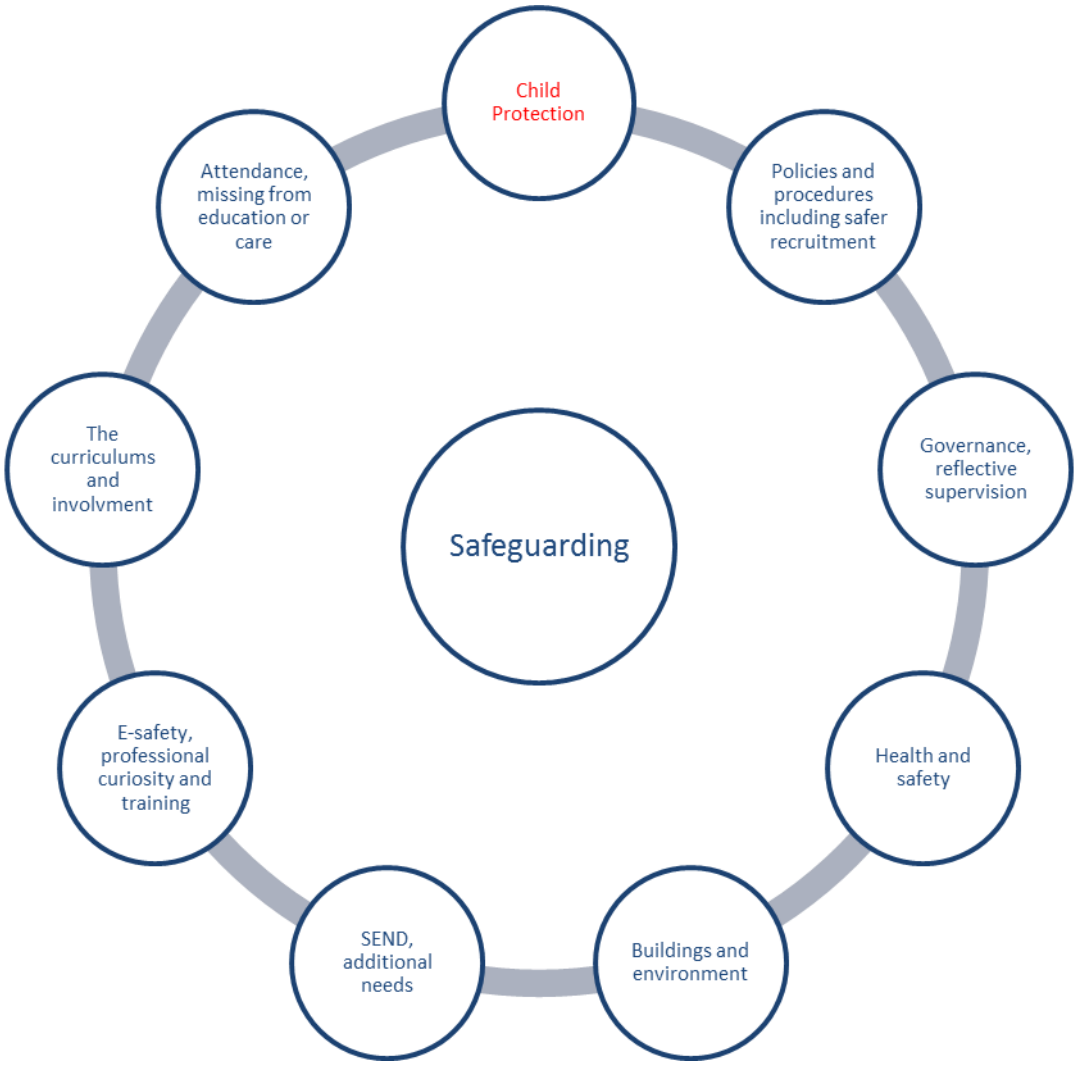
Appendix 10. Safeguarding in children's Services - illustration



Appendix 11. Further Safeguarding information – what everyone needs to know

Contextual safeguarding

9.1. Contextual Safeguarding is 'an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools, colleges, children's/care homes and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. Therefore children's social care practitioners need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra- familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts'.

9.2. All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the DSL (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence (KCSiE2021). Further advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance

9.3. Children's social care assessments should consider where children are being harmed in contexts outside the home (family home, children's/care home), so it is important that schools, colleges and children's/care homes provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and enable a contextual approach to address such harm. More information about Contextual safeguarding can be found on NSPCC website.

9.4. We will consider the various factors that have an interplay with the life of any child/young person about whom we have concerns within the setting and the level of influence that these factors have on their ability to be protected and remain free from harm particularly when it comes to child exploitation or criminal activity.

9.5. Whilst this term applies to this specific definition, the notion of considering a child/young person within a specific context is also important. What life is like for e.g. day/part time/38 weeks student outside the school, college, children's/care home gates, within their family home when they visit (children attending residential education), within the family (day students) and within the community (extracurricular off site activities, events, groups and clubs) are key considerations when the DSL is looking at any concerns.

Bullying

9.6. Our approach to bullying is set out in a separate **0.21. Anti – bullying policy and procedure** acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. Bullying is a safeguarding matter that if left unresolved can become a child protection matter. Our settings take seriously any bullying concerns and both investigate and take action to protect Individuals where appropriate.

Cambian

Peer on peer (child on child) abuse

9.7. Boarding schools, residential special schools, residential colleges and children's homes and care homes for young adults attending education (FE colleges) have additional factors to consider with regard to safeguarding. Schools and colleges that provide such residential accommodation and/or are registered as children's homes should be alert to signs of abuse in such settings (for example, inappropriate pupil or student relationships and the potential for peer on peer abuse, particularly in schools and colleges where there are significantly more girls than boys or vice versa) and work closely with the host local authority and, where relevant, any local authorities that have placed their children there. All residential setting within the Organisation children's service will continuously maintain their communication with the internal and external Education providers to ensure the additional factors are being considered and any concerns shared in a timely manner and with the right people.

9.8. All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse) and that it can happen both inside and outside of school/college/children's/care home and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of peer on peer abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports. In some schools, colleges, children's / care homes site – based or regional members of therapy teams might need to be involved and support the SLT to identify the most effective ways of communication with the child/young person who may have potentially been the victim of Peer on Peer abuse and who instigated it.

9.9. It must be recognised that children and young people would require varied approaches and communication mechanisms to be present and available so they can report abuse. Children must be regularly reassured that their concern/reports will be treated seriously every time they report it.

9.10. Children needs to be told what will happen from the moment their concern is shared, so the lack of knowledge of what may happen next will not prevent them from sharing their concern/s in the future. Children need to know that that their concerns will be investigated and dealt with. Child's/young person's preference in terms of how feedback should be provided must be taken into consideration so this can be planed for in advance.

9.11. The communication with each child throughout the process of Peer on peer abuse investigation must be regular, proportionate and take place using suitable communication.

9.12. In Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges, young people stated that some of them didn't receive timely and appropriate support from the school/college, hence the communication and support must become one of the critical points of a significant priority to those responding to and those managing peer on peer abuse cases including those of a sexual nature. Other consideration for all providers were:

- to assume it is happening here and plan accordingly
- work on and strengthen the whole school, college, children's/care home approach to developing a safeguarding culture
- to ensure staff model respectful behaviour
- to ensure children and young people are clear about acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- to ensure children/young people are confident to ask for help
- to ensure carefully planned and implemented RSHE curriculum
- to ensure the behavioural approach with sanctions & interventions for poor behaviour
- to have mechanisms to support students who need it in the way they need it
- to ensure staff have access to suitable training & that there are clear expectation for staff and Managers
- to ensure pupil's voice in heard and responded to

- to ensure DSLs have some protected time to engage with local safeguarding partners and LADOs, so those relationships can be strengthen
- to ensure staff follow the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education

9.13. All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in their schools or colleges it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such it is important if staff have any concerns regarding peer on peer abuse they should speak to their DSL (or deputy).

9.14. The Organisation has zero - tolerance approach to any type of abuse including sexual violence and harassment. Staff must NOT take the view that it doesn't not happen in their setting. It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

9.15. The Organisation recognises that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys' perpetrators, but that all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

9.16. Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence). For further information about sexual violence see Annex B.
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse; For further information about sexual harassment see Annex B.
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery). For more information about this read UKCIS guidance: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes advice for education settings.
- Upskirting (For further information about upskirting see Annex B) which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and

9.17. initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

9.18. Staff must be clear as to the school/college's/home's procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

9.19. All Individuals will be provided with safeguarding information in a format which is appropriate for their understanding and communication. This may take the form of posters or a leaflet/booklet.

9.20. All contact behaviours that have a sexual nature to them such as pushing or rubbing against, grabbing bottoms, breasts or genitals, pinging or flicking bras, lifting skirts or pulling down trousers will be challenged by staff and appropriate levels of action, which may include disciplinary action will be taken. This is to ensure children/young people and staff are clear that these behaviours will not be tolerated or acceptable. However, it is critical to state that some children with cognitive impairment may not be able to fully understand how children on the receiving end of such behaviour may feel, therefore staff will work with each of the children affected by the situation in order to enhance their understanding of the seriousness of their behaviour, so any behaviour of such nature in the future can be prevented.

Serious violence

9.21. All staff should be aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

9.22. All staff should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.

9.23. Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children can occur between two children of **any age and sex from primary to secondary stage and into colleges. It can also occur online.** It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

9.24. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same school or college or lives in the same children's/care home. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. All staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'.

9.25. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. **A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment.** Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

9.26. Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, offered appropriate support and every effort is made to ensure their education is not disrupted. It is also important that other children, adult students and school and college staff are supported and protected as appropriate.

9.27. There is support available for schools and colleges. Paragraph 52 and Annex A in the Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges advice provides detailed information and links to resources.

9.28. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk.

9.29. Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- challenging inappropriate behaviours;
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;

- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys"; and

- challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

9.30. Children's sexual behaviour exists on a wide continuum, from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive and violent. Problematic, abusive and violent sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage. An umbrella term for these types of behaviour are often referred to as **"harmful sexual behaviour"**. The term has been widely adopted in child protection. Harmful sexual behaviour can occur online and/or offline and can also occur simultaneously between the two. Harmful sexual behaviour should be considered in a child protection context.

9.31. Situations where children/young people are forced or coerced into sexual activity by peers or associates can be related with gang / serious youth violence activity but that is not always the case. Peer influence or peer pressure is a major factor in the decisions made by young people to join particular groups. Many young people see it as a "way out" from their day to day life and feel a strong bond with their peers, one which they may be lacking at home. Examples of peer-on-peer abuse including sexualised online bullying include:

- **Racist and Religious Bullying** - a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalised, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith community, national origin or national status.

- **Sexual, Sexist Bullying -** any behaviour, whether physical or non-physical, where sexuality or gender is used as a weapon by boys or girls, this may also include any of the following:

  - spreading rumors about someone's alleged sex life
  - using offensive terms to describe a person
  - inappropriate touching or attempts to do so
  - non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos
  - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including those on social media
  - any sexual exploitation, coercion and threats
  - sexual assault and rape

- **Upskirting -** taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission and /or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim The Voyeurism Offences Act, which was commonly known as the Upskirting Bill, was introduced on 21 June 2018. It came into force on 12 April 2019.

- **Transphobic bullying -** is based on fear, hatred, disbelief, or mistrust of people who are transgender, thought to be transgender, or whose gender expression doesn't conform to traditional gender roles. Transphobia can prevent transgender and gender nonconforming people from living full lives free from harm.

- **Homophobic Bullying -** targets someone because of their sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation);

- **Disablist Bullying -** targets a young person solely based on their disability. This can include manipulative bullying where a perpetrator forces the victim to act in a certain way, or exploiting a certain aspect of the victim's disability.

- **Prejudice based and discriminatory bullying** - Prejudice is an unjustified or incorrect attitude (usually negative) towards an individual based solely on the individual's membership of a social group. For example, a person may hold prejudiced views towards a certain race or gender etc. (e.g. sexist). **Discrimination** is the behavior or actions, usually negative, towards an individual or group of people, especially on the basis of sex/race/social class.

9.32. Definitions related to sexual violence and sexual harassment can be accessed via KCSIE2021/Annex B (pages 139 – 140) and more details about how to respond have been included in KCSIE 2021 Part 5. Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment.

What staff should do if they have concerns about the child/young person

9.33. Staff working with children/young people are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child/young person, staff should always act in the best interests of the child/young person

9.34. If staff have any concerns about a child's/young person welfare, they should act on them immediately by following this procedure and reporting their concern to the DSL/DSL Deputy.

Opportunities to teach safeguarding

9.35. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that, as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regular updated safeguarding training, including online safety and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, that safeguarding training for staff, including online safety training, is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school or college safeguarding approach and wider staff training and curriculum planning.

9.36. Whilst considering the above training requirements, governing bodies and proprietors should have regard to the Teachers' Standards which set out the expectation that all teachers manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment and requires teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils.

9.37. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, and recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed.

9.38. Schools should consider all of this as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum (colleges may cover relevant issues through tutorials). This may include covering relevant issues for schools through Relationships Education (for all primary pupils) and Relationships and Sex Education (for all secondary pupils) and Health Education (for all pupils in state-funded schools). The statutory guidance can be found here: Statutory guidance: relationships education relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education.

9.39. The Department has produced a one-stop page for teachers on GOV.UK, which can be accessed here: Teaching about relationships sex and health. This includes teacher training modules on the RSHE topics and non-statutory implementation guidance. The following resources may also help schools and colleges understand and teach about safeguarding:

- DfE advice for schools: teaching online safety in schools;
- UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS)32 guidance: Education for a connected world;
- UKCIS guidance: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people;
- The UKCIS external visitors guidance will help schools and colleges to ensure the maximum impact of any online safety sessions delivered by external visitors;
- National Crime Agency's CEOP education programme: Thinkuknow;

- Public Health England: Rise Above

9.40. As schools and colleges increasingly work online, it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Whilst it is essential that governing bodies and proprietors ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place, they should be careful that "over blocking" does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regard to online teaching and safeguarding.

Online safety

9.41. It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. An effective whole school and college approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate pupils, students, and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

9.42. The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk which we'll refer to as 4Cs later on:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes'.

- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and

- **commerce** - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group https://apwg.org/

9.43. Schools and colleges should ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing policies and procedures. This will include considering how online safety is reflected as required in all relevant policies and considering online safety whilst planning the curriculum, any teacher training, the role and responsibilities of the DSL and any parental engagement.

Online safety policy

9.44. Online safety and the school or college's approach to it should be reflected in the child protection policy. Considering the 4Cs (above) will provide the basis of an effective online policy. The school or college should have a clear policy on the use of mobile and smart technology. Amongst other things this will reflect the fact many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G). This access means some children, whilst at school or college, sexually harass their peers via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images: consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups), and view and share pornography and other harmful content. Schools and colleges should carefully consider how this is managed on their premises and reflect in their mobile and smart technology policy and their child protection policy.

9.45. Information and support available to schools and colleges to keep children safe online can be found in KCSIE 2021 Annex D.

Remote Learning

9.46. Where children are being asked to learn online at home the Department has provided advice to support schools and colleges do so safely: Schools Covid-19 operational guidance (this covers Remote education) and safeguarding and remote education. The NSPCC and PSHE Association also provide helpful advice:

- NSPCC Learning - Undertaking remote teaching safely during school closures
- PSHE - PSHE Association coronavirus hub

Filters and monitoring

9.47. Whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, governing bodies and proprietors should be doing all that they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to the above risks from the school's or college's IT system. As part of this process, governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their school or college has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place. Governing bodies and proprietors should consider the age range of their children, the number of children, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of costs vs risks. Schools will work with the internal Cambian/Care tech IT team and seek advice and support required.

9.48. The appropriateness of any filters and monitoring systems are a matter for individual schools and colleges and will be informed in part, by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty. The UK Safer Internet Centre has published guidance as to what "appropriate" filtering and monitoring might look like: UK Safer Internet Centre: appropriate filtering and monitoring.

Information security and access management

9.49. Education settings are directly responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate level of security protection procedures in place, in order to safeguard their systems, staff and learners and review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies. Guidance on e-security is available from the National Education Network. In addition, broader guidance on cyber security including considerations for governors and trustees can be found at NCSC.GOV.UK.

Reviewing online safety

9.50. Technology, and risks and harms related to it evolve and changes rapidly. Schools and colleges should consider carrying out an annual review of their approach to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks their children face. A free online safety self-review tool for schools can be found via the 360 safe website.

9.51. UKCIS has published Online safety in schools and colleges: Questions from the governing board. The questions can be used to gain a basic understanding of the current approach to keeping children safe online; learn how to improve this approach where appropriate; and find out about tools which can be used to improve the approach. It has also published an Online Safety Audit Tool which helps mentors of trainee teachers and newly qualified teachers induct mentees and provide ongoing support, development and monitoring.

Information and support

9.52. There is a wealth of additional information available to support schools, colleges and parents to keep children safe online. A sample is provided at Annex D (page 152 – 154).

Cyberbullying

9.53. Central to Anti-bullying policy is the principle that 'bullying is always unacceptable' and that 'all children/young people have a right not to be bullied'. School/colleges also recognises that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside school/college which spills over into the school/college; therefore once aware services will respond to any cyber-bullying we become aware of carried out by children/young people when they are away from the site.

9.54. Cyber-bullying is defined as 'an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.'

- By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:
- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile 'phones
- The use of mobile 'phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- Using e-mail to message others
- Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in on-line forums

9.55. Cyber-bullying may be at a level where it is criminal in character. It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.

9.56. Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

9.57. The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

9.58. If services become aware of any incidents of cyberbullying, they will need to consider each case individually as to any criminal act that may have been committed. The services will pass on information to the police if it feels that it is appropriate or is required to do so.

Gaming – raising awareness

9.59. Online gaming is an activity in which the majority of children and young people and many adults get involved. The services will raise awareness by talking to children/young people/key workers/staff and also where appropriate parents/carers involved about the games their children play and help them identify whether they are appropriate.

Nudes/semi nudes images or videos

9.60. Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages. They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, laptops - any device that enables the sharing of media and messages. Sexting may also be called: trading nudes, dirties, pic for pic.

9.61. Sexting can be seen as harmless, but creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law if they:

- take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age

- possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.

9.62. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed but that taking formal action isn't in the public interest. There are many reasons why a young person may want to send a naked or semi-naked picture, video or message to someone else:

- joining in because they think that 'everyone is doing it'
- boosting their self-esteem
- flirting with others and testing their sexual identity
- exploring their sexual feelings
- to get attention and connect with new people on social media
- they may find it difficult to say no if somebody asks them for an explicit image, especially if the person asking is persistent

9.63. The risks of sexting are that the young person has no control over the images and how these are shared, and the subsequent risks of blackmail, bullying and harm. In response to this Cambian Group will provide education and guidance to prevent individuals from becoming victims of such situations by encouraging them to think about the risk of sexting and understand how to seek help when approached to take part in sexting. More information can be found on: Keeping-children-safe/online-safety/sexting-sending-nudes.

Online reputation

9.64. Online reputation is the opinion others get of a person when they encounter them on-line. It is formed by posts, photos that have been uploaded and comments made by others on people's profiles. It is important that children/young people and staff are aware that anything that is posted could influence their future professional reputation. The majority of organisations and work establishments now check digital footprint before considering applications for positions or places on courses.

Grooming

9.65. On-line grooming is the process by which one person with an inappropriate sexual interest in children/young people will approach a child/young person on-line, with the intention of developing a relationship with that child/young person, to be able to meet them in person and intentionally cause harm.

9.66. The services will build awareness amongst children/young people, parents/carers and staff about ensuring that the child/young person:

- Only has friends on-line that they know in real life
- Is aware that if they communicate with somebody that they have met on-line, that relationship should stay on-line.

9.67. Where appropriate that the services will support parents/carers to:

- Recognise the signs of grooming
- Have regular conversations with their children/young people about on-line activity and how to stay safe on-line

9.68. Where appropriate the services will raise awareness by:

- Regular communication with the families

- Schools/colleges will Include awareness around grooming as part of their curriculum
- Identifying with the families and children/young people how they can be safeguarded against grooming.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

9.69. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a hate crime and a violation of the Human Rights of women and girls. The government has a strategy looking at specific issues that women and girls face.

9.70. It is also one of the most oppressive forms of gender inequality and stands as a fundamental barrier to equal participation of women and men in social, economic, and political spheres. Such violence impedes gender equality and the achievement of a range of development outcomes. VAWG is a complex and multifaceted problem that cannot effectively be addressed from a single vantage point. The prevention of and response to such violence require coordinated action across multiple sectors.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

9.71. FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons, hence interferes with the natural function of girls' and women's bodies. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways.

9.72. The age at which girls undergo FGM varies enormously according to the community in which they live. The procedure may be carried out when the girl is new-born, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during the first pregnancy. However, the majority of cases of FGM are thought to take place between the ages of 5 to 8 years and therefore girls within that age bracket are at a higher risk.

9.73. In 2003 FGM became a criminal offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to take their child abroad to have female genital mutilation. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. It is mandatory for teachers to report known cases of FGM to the police.

Forced marriage

9.74. In the case of children and young people: 'a forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.' In developing countries approx. 11% of girls are married before the age of 15. One in 3 victims of forced marriage in the UK are under 18 years old.

9.75. It is important that all members of staff recognise the presenting symptoms, know how to respond if there are concerns and where to turn for advice.

9.76. Advice and help can be obtained nationally through the **Forced Marriage Unit on +44 (0) 20 7008 0151** and locally through the local police safeguarding team or children's social care.

9.77. While all members of staff (education, care, clinical) have important responsibilities with regard to children, young people or adults who may be at risk of forced marriage, managers and leaders should not undertake roles in this regard that are most appropriately discharged by other children's services professionals such as police officers or social workers.

Breast ironing

9.78. Breast ironing, also known as breast flattening, is the pounding and massaging of a pubescent girl's breasts, using hard or heated objects, to try to make them stop developing or disappear. It is typically carried out by the girl's mother who will say she is trying to protect the girl from sexual harassment and rape, to prevent early pregnancy that would tarnish the family name, or to allow the girl to pursue education rather than be forced into early marriage. It is mostly practiced in parts of Cameroon, where boys and men may think that girls whose breasts have begun to grow are ready for sex. Some reports suggest that it has spread to the Cameroonian diaspora, for example to Britain. The most widely used implement for breast ironing is a wooden pestle normally used for pounding tubers.

9.79. Any suspected cases of breast ironing MUST be reported immediately under this Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and the Individual offered medical help.

Teenage relationship abuse

9.80. Research has shown that teenagers don't readily understand what constitutes abusive behaviour such as controlling behaviours, which can escalate to physical abuse, e.g. checking someone's phone, telling them what to wear, who they can/can't see or speak to and that this abuse is prevalent within teen relationships.

9.81. Further research shows that teenagers don't understand what consent means within their relationships. They often hold the common misconception that rape can only be committed by a stranger down a dark alley and don't understand that it could happen within their own relationships. This can lead to these abusive behaviours feeling 'normal' and therefore unchallenged as they are not recognised as being 'abusive'.

9.82. Vulnerable Individuals may struggle to understand such concepts and the potential consequences of their own, their peers or others behaviour towards them. Therefore significant effort will be made to raise awareness of it and respond effectively to such situations.

9.83. In response to this Cambian Group will provide education and guidance to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships - encouraging them to rethink their views of violence, abuse and controlling behaviours, and understand what consent means within relationships.

Honour-based violence

9.84. It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture. However, abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take" for example, honour-based violence might be committed against individuals who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- want to get out of an arranged marriage
- want to get out of a forced marriage
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

9.85. Girls and women are the most common victims of honour-based violence however it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include: domestic abuse, threats of violence, assault, sexual or psychological abuse, forced marriage, being held against their will or taken somewhere they don't want to go.

9.86. If staff believe that the Individual is at risk from honour-based violence the DSL will follow the usual safeguarding referral process. However, if it is clear that a crime has been committed or the Individual is at immediate risk the police will be contacted in the first place, this is a mandatory duty placed on teachers. It is important that if honour-based violence is known or suspected, communities and family members must NOT be contacted prior to referral to the police or social care as this could increase the risk to the individual.

Cambian

Preventing extremism and radicalisation

9.87. All staff are fully aware of their duty in assessing the risk of Individuals being drawn into terrorism including support for terrorism ideology and extremist ideas. In accordance with our **026. Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy** and **0.27 E-safety policy** we all need to be vigilant in ensuring the safety from extremist and terrorist material when accessing the internet. We take into account Somerset Authority Safeguarding Children's Board arrangements to fulfil its Prevent duties.

9.88. Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach.

- **Extremism** is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- **Terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat **must** be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

9.89. There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home).

9.90. However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a Prevent referral.

9.91. The school's or college's DSL (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral

9.92. All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as **the Prevent duty.**

9.93. An online general awareness training module on Channel is available. The module is suitable for school staff and other front-line workers. It provides an introduction to the topics covered by this advice, including how to identify factors that can make people vulnerable to radicalisation, and case studies illustrating the types of intervention that may be appropriate, in addition to Channel.

Prevent Duty

9.94. The Prevent duty should be seen as part of schools' and colleges' wider safeguarding obligations. DSLs and other senior leaders in schools should familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, especially paragraphs 57-76, which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare). DSLs and other senior leaders in colleges should familiar themselves with the Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales. The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies.

9.95. Local authorities will be expected to ensure appropriate frontline staff, including those of it's contractors, have a good understanding of Prevent are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.

9.96. As the independent body responsible for standards and quality improvement for further education, the Education and Training Foundation will work with the sector to ensure that appropriate training is available. This will include and draw from training provided through the network of Prevent co-ordinators.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

9.97. This section of the policy must be read in conjunction with our 0.29 Child Sexual Exploitation policy.

9.98. Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

9.99. Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others. Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence, or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.

9.100. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

9.101. CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside clothing. It may include noncontact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet.

9.102. CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence, and may happen without the child's immediate knowledge e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media.

9.103. CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship

9.104. Children with learning difficulties can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation as can children from particular groups, e.g. looked after children, young carers, children who have a history of physical, sexual emotional abuse or neglect or mental health problems; children who use drugs or alcohol, children who go missing from home or school, children involved in crime, children with parents/carers who have mental health problems, learning difficulties/other issues, children who associate with other children involved in exploitation. However, it is important to recognise that any child can be targeted.

9.105. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator.

9.106. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children (under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex) or adults. It is critical to know that children/young people may also be exploited by other children/young people, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation – where this is the case, it is important that the child/young person perpetrator is also recognised as a victim.

9.107. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online. More information include definitions and indicators are included in - KCSIE2021 - Part One. Some of the following can be indicators of both child criminal and sexual exploitation where children:

- appear with unexplained gifts or new professions;
- associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- misuse drugs and alcohol;
- go missing for periods of time or regularly or come home late; and
- regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

9.108. Some additional specific indicators that may be present in CSE and children who:

- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends; and
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections, display sexual behaviours beyond expected sexual development or or become pregnant.

9.109. Further information on signs of a child's involvement in sexual exploitation is available in Home Office guidance: Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners.

9.110. As an organisation we do recognise that the same level of exploitation may take place involving vulnerable young people/adults at risk above the age of 18. An adult at risk is any person who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and/or support (The Care Act 2014). As we do provide services for vulnerable young people/adults at risk, therefore it is expected that the above statement will equally apply to those who are 18+ across England and Wales.

9.111. Children under the age of criminal responsibility (under the age of 10), or young people who have increased vulnerability due to push and pull factors who are manipulated, coerced or forced into criminal activity provide opportunity for criminals to distance themselves from crime.

County Lines

9.112. County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited. Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines, children may become victims through: coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual) and weapons.

9.113. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children's homes and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

9.114. Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. These children and young people are at serious risk of criminalisation, sexual exploitation and exposure to violence. This is facilitated by a group who may not necessarily be affiliated to a gang, but who have developed networks across geographical boundaries to access and exploit existing drugs markets in these areas.

9.115. The group, or individuals exploited by them, travel regularly between the urban hub and the rural marketplace, to replenish stock and deliver cash. This movement is not unique to county lines drug supply but is generally more frequent and in smaller deal amounts compared to most other drug supply methods.

9.116. A number of the indicators for CSE and CCE as detailed above may be applicable to where children are involved in county lines. Some additional specific indicators that may be present where a child is criminally exploited through involvement in county lines are children who:

- go missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home;
- have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime);
- are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs;
- are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection;
- are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a 'trap house or cuckooing' or hotel room where there is drug activity;
- owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters;
- have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

9.117. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

Cuckooing

9.118. This is the exploitation of young people that might be vulnerable is a common feature in the facilitation of county lines drugs supply, whether for the storage or supply of drugs, the movement of cash, or to secure the use of dwellings held by vulnerable people in the rural marketplace - commonly referred to as cuckooing.

9.119. Cuckooing is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing. As of the 2010s, cuckooing is becoming an increasingly common problem in the South of England. The crime is named for the cuckoo's practice of taking over other birds' nests for its young.

9.120. The group is inclined to use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms.

9.121. Additional to the list under Serious Violent Crime section, other indicators that a child may be criminally exploited include:

- Increase in missing episodes (Education and/or Care) – particular key as children/young people can be missing for days and drug run in other counties
- Having unexplained amounts of money, new high cost items and multiple mobile phones
- Increased social media and phone/text use, almost always secretly
- Older males in particular seen to be hanging around and driving
- Having injuries that are unexplained and unwilling to be looked at
- Increase in aggression, violence and fighting
- Carrying weapons – knives, baseball bats, hammers, acid
- Travel receipts that are unexplained
- Significant missing cases from education and disengaging from previous positive peer groups
- Parents/carers concerns and significant changes in behaviour that affect emotional wellbeing

9.122. We will treat any child/young person who may be criminally exploited as a victim in the first instance and refer to the Local Safeguarding Authority in the first instance. If a referral to the police is also required as crimes have been committed on the school premises, these will also be made.

Knife crime

9.123. Ofsted report Knife crime safeguarding children and young people (Lessons from London) makes references to both; to the use of knives against children either to threaten or to wound them and to instances when children may have been carrying or using knives for a range of purposes.

9.124. Knife crime is a term used commonly in the media to refer, primarily, to street-based knife assaults and knife-carrying. However, there are many different criminal offences relating to knives. For example:

- it is an offence to threaten or cause harm to a person with a bladed weapon
- some bladed weapons are prohibited from being sold or purchased, including to anyone under the age of 18
- offences such as robbery or assault can be aggravated if a knife is involved
- it is also an offence to carry a knife in a public place without good reason.
- It is clear that knife crime is an increasing safeguarding risk to children and young people, both at school and in their local communities. While Ofsted have not sought to answer the question of the causes of knife crime, leaders told Ofsted that, in their experience, children are in three categories of risk of knife-carrying.

9.125. The highest level of risk is for those children who have been groomed into gangs, for the purposes of criminal exploitation.

9.126. Underneath this lies a group of children who have witnessed other children carrying knives, have been the victim of knife crime or know someone who has carried a knife for protection or status-acquisition or who are encouraged to believe knife-carrying is normal through the glamorisation of gangs and knives on social media.

9.127. Then there are children who carry knives to school as an isolated incident. For example, they may carry a penknife that a grandparent has gifted them

9.128. It is important to remember that knife crime does not exist in a vacuum and children who are victims or perpetrators may also be experiencing multiple vulnerabilities.

9.129. Some children and young people can be more at risk of being drawn into criminality, multiple studies demonstrate a clear link between inequality and high rates of violence for example. There is a need to both understand and address individual risk factors as well as address the social challenges that underpin criminal exploitation and serious violence in our communities, from poor mental health, addiction, poverty, unemployment and poor-quality housing.

Missing young people and the link between missing and county lines

9.130. Every precaution is taken through the use of risk assessments and thorough planning and supervision to ensure that children, young people and young adults are safe both at school, college, home, and on outings. If a child, young person or young adult goes missing from our Location it is considered a potential indicator of abuse or neglect.

9.131. Our staff members must follow our **0.23. Missing from Care and Education policy** in the event of someone going missing. All homes/schools/colleges must inform the LA of any student who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more or as such intervals agreed with the Local Authority. It is essential that all staff are alert to signs such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

9.132. Coercion and manipulation often increase a young person's vulnerability to exploitation, pushing them towards going missing and becoming involved in criminal activities. Some individuals may be pulled towards exploitation through the promise of money, gifts, affection and status. However, they may be then be forced to work for these people as they are coerced into believing that they are indebted to them.

Domestic abuse

9.133. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be "personally connected" (as defined in section 2 of the 2021 Act).

9.134. Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. The government will issue statutory guidance to provide further information for those working with domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, including the impact on children.

9.135. All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

9.136. Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer on peer abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support. The Act's provisions, including the new definition, will be commenced over the coming months.

9.137. Operation Encompass operates in all police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the police will inform the key adult (usually the DSL) in school before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable immediate support to be put in place, according to the child's needs. Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate, the police and/or schools should make a referral to children's social care if they are concerned about a child's welfare. More information about the scheme and how schools can become involved is available on the Operation Encompass website.

9.138. Refuge runs the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, which can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Its website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which a safe time from the team for a call can be booked. Additional advice on identifying children who are affected by domestic abuse and how they can be helped is available at:

- NSPCC- UK domestic-abuse Signs Symptoms Effects
- Refuge what is domestic violence/effects of domestic violence on children
- SafLives: young people and domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse: specialist sources of support - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (includes information for adult victims, young people facing abuse in their own relationships and parents experiencing child to parent violence/abuse)
- Home: Operation Encompass (includes information for schools on the impact of domestic abuse on children

Serious Violent Crime

9.139. All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include:

- increased absence from school with a significant decline in performance,
- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or group,
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in well-being, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries,
- unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

9.140. All staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to measure these. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance - September 2018.

Mental Health

9.141. Schools, colleges and homes have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people. All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

9.142. Schools/colleges and homes need to ensure they have clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems, including routes to escalate and clear referral and accountability systems.

9.143. The Department is providing funding to support costs of a significant training program for senior mental health leads and the national rollout of the Link Program. Training for senior mental health leads, will be available to all state-funded schools and colleges by 2025, to help introduce or develop their whole school or college approach to mental health.

9.144. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. If staff suspect this might be the case they should report their concerns to a senior leader within the school and if possible bring their concerns to a member of the clinical team.

9.145. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff receive appropriate education and training so that they are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

9.146. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken. Staff should follow their child protection policy and speak immediately to the DSL or a deputy.

9.147. Schools and colleges can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the mental health and behaviour in schools guidance, colleges may also wish to follow this guidance as best practice. Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary school teachers to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among children.

9.148. The DfE has published advice and guidance on Preventing and Tackling Bullying (which may also be useful for colleges). The Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in Schools sets out how schools and colleges can help prevent mental health problems by promoting resilience as part of an integrated, whole school/college approach to social and emotional wellbeing, which is tailored to the needs of their pupils.

9.149. In addition, Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary schools to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among children including its guidance Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing. Its resources include social media, forming positive relationships, smoking and alcohol. See Rise Above for links to all materials and lesson plans. The Department has also published, 'Every interaction matters', a pre-recorded webinar which provides staff with a simple framework for promoting wellbeing, resilience, and mental health. This sits alongside our Wellbeing for education recovery program content, which covers issues such as bereavement, loss, anxiety, stress and trauma.

Human trafficking

9.150. Human trafficking is defined by the UNHCR in respect of children/young people/young adults as a process that is a combination of:

- Movement (including within the UK);
- Control, through harm / threat of harm or fraud
- For the purpose of exploitation

9.151. Traffickers and slave drivers trick, force and/or persuade individuals to leave their homes. Grooming methods are used to gain the trust of a person first, e.g. the promise of a better life, which results in a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

9.152. Any individual transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim. There is significant evidence that children/young people/young adults (both of UK and other citizenship) are being trafficked internally within the UK and this is regarded as a more common form of trafficking in the UK.

9.153. There are a number of indicators which suggest that a child/young person/young adult may have been trafficked into the UK, and may still be controlled by the traffickers or receiving adults. These are as follows:

- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted infection or has an unwanted pregnancy
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- Is required to earn a minimum amount of money every day
- Works in various locations
- Has limited freedom of movement
- Appears to be missing for periods
- Is known to beg for money
- Is being cared for by adult/s who are not their parents and the quality of the relationship between the child and their adult carers is not good
- Is one among a number of unrelated children found at one address
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practice
- Is excessively afraid of being deported.

9.154. For those children/young people/young adults who are internally trafficked within the UK indicators include:

- Physical symptoms (bruising indicating either physical or sexual assault)
- Prevalence of a sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in
- Sexual exploitation / the child has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- Being in the community in clothing unusual for a child i.e. inappropriate for age, or borrowing clothing from older people
- Relationship with a significantly older partner
- Accounts of social activities, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding
- Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation
- Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for despite having not been at home
- Having keys to premises other than those known about
- Low self- image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity
- Truancy / disengagement with education
- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults

- Going missing and being found in areas where the child/young person/young adult has no known links; and/or

- Possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming on-line relationships, particularly with adults/other adults.

9.155. These behaviours themselves do not indicate that an Individual is being trafficked, but should be considered as indicators that this may be the case.

Modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

9.156. Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

9.157. When considering modern slavery, there is a perception that this is taking place overseas. The government estimates that tens of thousands of slaves are in the UK today.

9.158. Young people are being forced to work in restaurants, nail bars, car washes and harvesting fruit, vegetables or other foods have all been slaves 'hiding in plain sight' within the U.K and rescued from slavery. Other forms of slavery such as sex slaves or household slaves are more hidden but have also been rescued within the UK.

9.159. If staff believe that a child/young person/young adult is being trafficked or is a slave, this must be reported to the DSL/RM/Head of Service for referral to be considered to local Safeguarding Authority.

9.160. Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Cybercrime

9.161. Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Cyber-dependent crimes include:

- unauthorised access to computers (illegal 'hacking'), for example accessing a school's computer network to look for test paper answers or change grades awarded;

- denial of Service (Dos or DDoS) attacks or 'booting'. These are attempts to make a computer, network or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources; and

- making, supplying or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence, including those above.

9.162. Children with particular skill and interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime.

9.163. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the DSL (or a deputy), should consider referring into the Cyber Choices programme. This is a nationwide police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working with regional and local policing. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

9.164. Note that Cyber Choices does not currently cover 'cyber-enabled' crime such as fraud, purchasing of illegal drugs on-line and child sexual abuse and exploitation, nor other areas of concern such as on-line bullying or general on-line safety. Additional advice can be found at: Cyber Choices, 'NPCC- When to call the Police' and National Cyber Security Centre - NCSC.GOV.UK

Initiation/Hazing

9.165. Hazing is a form of initiation ceremony which is used to induct newcomers into an organisation such as a private school, sports team etc. There are a number of different forms, from relatively mild rituals to severe and sometimes violent ceremonies in gangs/criminal groups.

9.166. The idea behind this practice is that it welcomes newcomers by subjecting them to a series of trials which promote a bond between them. After the hazing is over, the newcomers also have something in common with older members of the organisation, because they all experienced it as part of a rite of passage. Many rituals involve humiliation, embarrassment, abuse, and harassment.

9.167. Cambian Group will provide education to prevent individuals from becoming victims of such behaviour and raise awareness of such within all services.

Safeguarding issues relating to Individual children and young people needs

Homelessness

9.168. As an organisation we recognise that being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's/young person welfare. The impact of losing a place of safety and security can affect an Individual's behaviour and attachments. DSL will work with Local Authorities to raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.

9.169. In line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 they will also promote links into the Local Housing Authority for the parent/guardians in order to raise/progress concerns.

9.170. In most cases school and college colleagues will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, or other reasons. This will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the DSL (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances. The department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/or require accommodation: Homelessness Reduction Act: policy factsheets.

9.171. Guidance on how local authorities should exercise their homelessness functions in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 from 3 April 2018- Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities.

9.172. Children's services (Adult's services where the person is 18 +) will be the lead agency for these young people and the DSL should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the Individual's circumstances.

9.173. It is recognised that whilst referrals and/or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into the Local Safeguarding Authority where an Individual has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

Private Fostering

9.174. Private fostering is an arrangement by a child's parents for their child (under 16 or 18 if disabled) to be cared for by another adult who is not closely related and is not a legal guardian with parental responsibility for 28 days or more.

9.175. It is not private fostering if the carer is a close relative to the child such as grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt.

9.176. The Law requires that the carers and parents must notify the Children's Services Department of any private fostering arrangement.

9.177. If the school/college/children's home/care homes (16-18) becomes aware that a child/young person is being privately fostered they will inform the Children's Services Department and inform both the parents and carers that they have done so.

Child and the Court System

9.178. As an organisation we recognise that children/young people are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. We know that this can be a stressful experience and therefore services across the organisation will aim to support children through this process.

9.179. Along with information, advice and guidance, services will use age-appropriate materials published by HM Courts and Tribunals Services (2017) Going to court explain to children/young people what it means to be a witness, how to give evidence and the special measures which are in place to assist such as using a live link/aids to communicate and video links.

9.180. We recognise that making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be very stressful for children. Services will support children/young people going through this process.

9.181. Alongside information, advice and guidance services will use online materials published by The Ministry of Justice (2018) which offers children/young people information & advice on the dispute resolution service - Get help with child arrangements. These materials will also be offered to parents and carers if appropriate.

9.182. Ensure that children/young people are sufficiently supported where a parent has been sent to prison, adequate support includes protection from: stigma, isolation and poor mental health.

Fabricated or induced illnesses (FII)

9.183. Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer, usually the child's biological mother, exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.

9.184. FII is also known as "Munchausen's syndrome by proxy" (not to be confused with Munchausen's syndrome, where a person pretends to be ill or causes illness or injury to themselves).

9.185. FII covers a wide range of symptoms and behaviours involving parents seeking healthcare for a child. This ranges from extreme neglect (failing to seek medical care) to induced illness.

9.186. Behaviours in FII include a parent/carer who:

- persuades healthcare professionals that their child is ill when they're perfectly healthy,
- exaggerates or lies about their child's symptoms,
- manipulates test results to suggest the presence of illness – for example, by putting glucose in urine samples to suggest the child has diabetes,
- deliberately induces symptoms of illness – for example, by poisoning her child with unnecessary medication or other substances.