

Our response to COVID-19

There have significant changes to learning and support in response to the government guidelines around the outbreak of COVID-19. However, the college's Safeguarding policy remains fundamentally the same – the safety and wellbeing of our learners is our priority and Safeguarding concerns will continue to be responded to in line with our policy as well as updated guidance and processes from the local 3 safeguarding partners/local authorities.

The Intensive Support Team along with our Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads, remain available to staff, learners and their families throughout this time. In addition to this, our University Centre Grimsby (UCG) remains open for children of key workers and our most vulnerable learners to access. We are regularly reviewing our position in light of guidance issued by the Government and updates provided by the Local Authority and will continue to do so.

Reporting arrangements

The college reporting procedures continue in line with our Safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Debra Gray

The Deputy DSLs are: Tamarra Taylor and Sacha Mills

Our approach ensures a DSL or deputy is always contactable within usual opening hours and that staff are aware of procedures and report any concerns for a learner immediately to the Intensive Support Team, whether they are in attendance on site or not. Staff are aware of the need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on families, support services and a probable increase in demand for these services.

The Intensive Support Team will make contact with Children /Adult's Social Care in line with the relevant local authority.

- Families First Access Point (FFAP): 01472326292
- North East Lincolnshire Children's Services: 01472325555 / Adult Social Care: 01472 256 256.
- North Lincolnshire Children's Services: 01724 296500 / Adult Protection Team: 01724 297000.
- Lincolnshire Children's Services: 01522782111 / Lincolnshire Adult Social Care: 01522 782155

Should a child in the Partnership's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are unable to respond, we will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedures in line with the relevant Local Authority.

Identifying vulnerability

In response to government guidance, regarding vulnerable children we contacted parents/carers, social workers, virtual schools and local authorities in order to identify learners who would need to continue to access our site. We have also offered access to the children of key workers.

We have put in place specific arrangements in respect of the following vulnerability groups.

- Those open to services at Early Help, TAC, CIN or CP. Also those who are open for an assessment or have recently been referred but have not yet been allocated a support worker
- Looked after Children (LAC)
- Care Leavers

Plans in place include, but are not exhaustive to, the following actions

- Updates provided to relevant workers/parent's/carers of learners accessing the UCG/Nursery (attendance)
- Contact made with relevant services to establish how they will continue to support the learner/family during this time
- Weekly call to learner to 'check-in'- review of support needs. (Logged on pro-monitor for the attention of relevant staff and individual 'Call Log' record on Sharepoint)
- Nursery staff have contacted the families of those children open to services to advise of support available to them and that they are available if they have any worries/concerns. Nursery staff will refer to SG as and where appropriate
- All learners have been sent details of the safeguarding team (availability and contact info) via email (personal and student email addresses) as have external support contacts
- Weekly update provided to relevant support worker after contact has been made with learner each week/to advise of any contact issues

In addition to this, the Intensive Support Team and Success Coach Team are conducting daily/weekly checks with the below vulnerability groups and providing feedback to relevant support services i.e YMM, Addaction. Please note, the Inclusion Team are following up with those learners who have an EHCP.

- Those who remain open to safeguarding support
- New referrals in to safeguarding
- Those with an EHCP
- Other learners classed as vulnerable

Each of these children has an individual plan which has been shared with other agencies involved in their care, including where appropriate their social worker and the Virtual School Head for Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

Holiday arrangements

The UCG will be open each morning from 8.30am-12.30 to our vulnerable learners and children of key workers. This will be communicated to learners and their families and they can make direct contact with staff regarding this.

Attendance

The Partnership is following the attendance guidance issued by government. Where a child is expected and does not arrive (either to a timetabled lesson online or physically to the site if planned) we will follow our attendance procedure and make contact with the family. If contact is not possible, where necessary, we will arrange a home visit by staff or another appropriate agency. Where staff attend an address to carry out a home visit, they will knock at the door and then step back to a safe distance in line with social-distancing and isolation guidance and also guidance issued from North East Lincs Council. The risk of COVID-19 does not override our duty to ensure children and young people are safe.

Home visits are to be conducted by the Safeguarding Team accompanied by a member of the Success Coach Team for learners who are under 18 years of age. This is also to be the case where there are safeguarding concerns for the learner or the learner has been known to safeguarding previously whether the learner is aged under 18 or over.

For learners where this is not the case, home visits can be conducted by two members of staff from faculty. The college's risk assessment for conducting home visits should be followed during this time.

The school will also follow the usual attendance procedure if contact proves impossible with children at home. All efforts will be made to make contact with the young person and their family. In addition to this, if there is any service involvement, attempts will be made to verify if they have had contact with the young person/family prior to the decision to conduct a home visit.

Staff will be aware of increased risk and can discuss any concerns that they may have with their line manager prior to any home visit taking place.

The pressures on children and their families may be heightened at this time due to anxiety around poverty, finances and health. This has been taken into consideration at the time of planning for online learning and considering support needs. Staff are aware of and continue to offer support and guidance around the mental health of both children and their parents and carers, informing the Intensive Support Team of any concerns.

Peer on peer abuse and online safety

We recognise the potential for abuse online to increase during this time. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs and disclosures of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. When making contact with learners and parents/carers, staff will offer the opportunity for any concerns to be discussed. Learners will of course use the internet more during this time, much of our

teaching and learning will be taking place online. Staff are aware of signs of cyber-bullying and other risks to children online and will continue to report concerns in to the Intensive Support Team. In addition the Partnership have ensured appropriate filters and monitors remain in place · Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate · The school/college has taken on board guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium. In addition to this;

- Staff have been reminded of the Partnership's code of conduct and importance of using school/college systems to communicate with children and their parents/carers.

- . The safeguarding handbook has been updated to reflect remote learning

- Children and young people accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with their Success Coach, Intensive Support Team and/or CEOP as required.

Allegations or concerns about staff

We remind all staff to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, directly to Steve Butler in HR. Arrangements to contact the LADO where required remain unchanged.