



Annexe to Safeguarding, Protection & Promoting the Welfare of Children and Adults at Risk Policy - Response to COVID-19 March 2020

There have been significant changes within our setting in response to the outbreak.

This annex sets out some of the adjustments we are making in line with the changed arrangements in the college and following advice from government and local agencies.

Despite the changes, Wirral Met's Safeguarding, Protection & Promoting the Welfare of Children and Adults at Risk Policy is fundamentally the same: students always come first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and contact the Safeguarding Manager in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

The current college position and local advice

Wirral Met College, in line with Government guidance, has made the decision to close its campuses to all students and staff. Arrangements are in place for students to access remote and on-line learning, similarly for staff to be able to work from home. All support services to students remain in place, albeit remotely, and incorporates pastoral mentor support, mental health, safeguarding, counselling and specialist learning support through specialist support tutors. Closure of the campuses will be reviewed regularly and in line with Government guidance. All students who fall into a recognised vulnerable group, have an EHCP or are under statutory process with children's social care have been identified and appropriate support mechanisms put in place, inclusive of regular communication with allocated social workers and virtual schools where appropriate.

Reporting arrangements

The college arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding, Protection & Promoting the Welfare of Children and Adults at Risk Policy.

The Safeguarding Manager is: Lorraine Jones; 07904016154; lorraine.jones@wmc.ac.uk

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Ste Bailey; 07827983488; ste.bailey@wmc.ac.uk

The Deputy Designated Managers are:

Jess Raybould: 07852000983; jess.raybould@wmc.ac.uk

Karen Christian; 07852000990; Karen.christian@wmc.ac.uk

Jayne Bayley; 07854696818; Jayne.bayley@wmc.ac.uk

Paul Crawford; 07762134709; paul.crawford@wmc.ac.uk

Pooja Furniss; 07929233322; Pooja.furniss@wmc.ac.uk

Jade Gibson; 07583067798; jade.gibson@wmc.ac.uk

Phil Jones; 07848147403; phillip.jones@wmc.ac.uk

Chris Carter; 07983347274; Christine.carter@wmc.ac.uk

Michael Norton; 07711079445; Michael.norton@wmc.ac.uk

Sue Higginson; 07904017592; sue.higginson@wmc.ac.uk



The college's approach ensures the Safeguarding Manager, Deputy Safeguarding Manager, DSL, or a deputy safeguarding lead is always available during the college's hours of operation.

Staff will continue to follow the Safeguarding, Protection and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Adults at Risk procedure and advise the safeguarding manager or deputy immediately about concerns they have about any student, whether in college or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Children's services may be affected by the impact of the virus on staff and an increased demand for services. Where a student is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority.

The arrangements for contacting children's services are: contact Integrated Front Door (IFD) 0151 606 2008 for under 18's

For 18+ adults at risk contact Wirral Community NHS Trust: Single Point of Access 514 2222

Should a student in the college's view be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the college will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure.

Identifying vulnerability

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable children and been in touch with appropriate social workers, lead professionals and key workers to notify them of the move to remote and on line learning.

This includes our students who have child looked after status, care leavers, students who are subject of child protection or child in need plan, under Team Around the Family, early help/targeted support, students estranged from parents and living in alternative accommodation, young carers and students who have an EHCP in place.

Students will receive regular contact through their allocated pastoral support mentor, mental health worker, specialist support tutor and/or their personal tutors as appropriate and in line with their individual needs. The Safeguarding Manager and Deputy Safeguarding Manager will maintain contact with allocated social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers, Virtual School and other key professionals as required.

NB Contact will be made remotely through telephone calls, text messages or emails.

Staff will continue to log contacts via Pro-Monitor and raise any safeguarding concerns by instigating the safeguarding procedures and contacting the safeguarding manager or another designated manager in her absence.



Staff will be aware of increased risk

The pressures on students and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty, and financial or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in the setting of any work for students to undertake at home.

Staff will be aware of the mental health of both students and their parents and carers and make referrals to the College Mental Health Workers (for students) accordingly. If staff feel that a student is at risk of significant harm they should inform the Safeguarding Manager about any concerns.

The Department for Education have produced guidance to support parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a college closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between students who are not currently attending our provision

Risk online

Students will be using the internet more during this period. The college may also use online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when students are learning at the college.

The college continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place. Our governing body will review arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate. Staff have discussed the risk that professional boundaries could slip during this exceptional period and been reminded of the college's code of conduct and importance of using college systems to communicate with children and their families.

Students accessing remote learning receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the college, Childline, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP.

It is extremely important that professional boundaries do not slip during this exceptional period and protocols for on line working have been issued to staff involved in live-streaming of lessons.

Allegations or concerns about staff



With such different arrangements in place students could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or online abuse. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to either the Safeguarding Manager (Lorraine Jones), Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ste Bailey) or HR. Any allegations will be dealt with in line with our usual policy.

New staff or volunteers

All new starters must have an on line induction. They must complete the on line Safeguarding, Protection and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Adults At Risk training, read the Guidance for Safer Working Practice with Children and Adults at Risk, and complete the on line KCSiE Quiz.

The Safeguarding Manager will ensure new starters know who to contact if worried about a student and ensure they are familiar with the Safeguarding Procedures

This annexe to our policy has been remotely approved by Governors on 14th April 2020 and is available on the college website.