



Northern College

1. Overview

Policy Title	Adult Safeguarding Policy 2021/22
Who does the policy apply to?	This policy will outline the guidance and implementation of Adult Safeguarding. This policy and its underpinning guidance should be read by all students, staff and governors.
Aims	To create and maintain a safe and positive environment and accept responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all adults at Northern College, in accordance with legislation and statutory duties.
To be read in conjunction with	Northern College Children & Young People Safeguarding Policy Northern College Safeguarding Procedures Equality and Diversity Policy Health & Safety Policy Whistleblowing Policy Staff Disciplinary Process Complaints Policy and Procedures
Further advice may be sought from	Assistant Principal Student Experience, Head of Student Support Services
Review arrangements	<p>This policy will be reviewed in line with the Northern College review cycle. Further details regarding revisions and the review cycle can be found at Sections 13 and 14. The College may review the policy prior to this date should operational and/or legislative/guidance matters require it.</p> <p>The policy, guidance and review arrangements can be viewed on the Northern College website, staff and student inductions and within the student handbook.</p>

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the implementation of safeguarding practice for all students, staff and visitors in relation to safeguarding adults. This policy is to support the prevention and risk of abuse to adults at risk and ensure that the College complies with statutory safeguarding procedures and legislation.

2.2. The key statutory instruments include:

- Adult safeguarding: statement of government policy;
- Care Act 2014 (Sec 42:1);
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Act 2006 amended by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012;
- Care and Statutory Guidance;
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales;
- The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015; Section 26(1).

2.3. Underpinning Legislative and Statutory Duties Guidance:

- Barnsley Safeguarding Adult's Board Policies and Procedures;
- South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Procedures Manual 2014.
(<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/15369/sy-safeguarding-adults-procedures.pdf>)

3. Context - Safeguarding Adults

3.1. *'Safeguarding 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. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.'*

Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Department of Health, updated February 2017

3.2. An adult may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to many reasons, including their mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss or physical or learning disabilities. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but maybe unable to do so because of an accident, age, disability, frailty, addiction or illness. The College will invoke the three stage test methodology for safeguarding adults:

- has needs for care and support;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect;
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect (Care Act 2014).

3.3. Northern College adheres to following the six key principles that underpin safeguarding work (Care Act 2014):

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

Who do adult safeguarding duties apply to at Northern College?

3.4. The Care Act 2014 sets out that adult safeguarding duties apply to any adult who:

- has care and support needs, and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and
- is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, because of those needs.

3.5. The College within the auspices of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 will respond effectively to the ideological challenge of terrorism, extremism and the risk of radicalisation. This will be an explicit duty outlined within policy, practice and curriculum.

3.6. Northern College will ensure good practice and responsibility for admission, within the context of inclusion, for individuals who present with an unspent criminal conviction.

4. Policy

4.1. In line with Government Legislation Northern College aims to reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable adults through abuse, exploitation or radicalisation. Northern College will not tolerate the abuse of adults in any of its forms and is committed to prevention, detection, and reporting where appropriate.

4.2. The College will work together with professional agencies in promoting the adult's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect including but not limited to; Barnsley Safeguarding

Adult Board, the Barnsley Cohesion & Prevent Officer, the FE Regional Coordinator and BIS (Business Innovation and Skills) Prevent coordinator.

- 4.3. This policy is intended to support staff to understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding adults. The key objectives of this policy are for all staff to:
- have an overview of adult safeguarding;
 - be clear about their responsibility to safeguard adults;
 - ensure the necessary actions are taken where an adult with care and support needs is deemed to be at risk.
- 4.4. The College will ensure Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) means any safeguarding cases should be person-led and outcome-focused. In the College context this means the student will be involved in identifying how best to respond to their safeguarding situation by giving choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.
- 4.5. Northern College will ensure that safe and effective working practices are in place with robust referral pathways and reporting mechanisms both internally and externally.
- 4.6. In complying with national guidance the College will carry out robust risk assessments on safeguarding practice, Prevent duties and the health, safety and welfare of all its staff, students and premises. This will be supported by action planning where appropriate.
- 4.7. The College will ensure that where there are instances of pandemic or infectious contagions that safeguarding and health and safety procedures will be paramount within operational processes.
- 4.8. The College will ensure that partners from the community will be involved in any safeguarding work, where appropriate, in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. Northern College will be transparent and accountable in delivering safeguarding actions in line with local guidance and procedures.
- 4.9. The College will ensure that allegations made by students in relation to peer on peer abuse or bullying behaviours will be subject to disciplinary process and where appropriate reported to external agencies.
- 4.10. The age of students at Northern College is not a barrier to reporting abuse against children and the College will work with external referring agencies and partners for the health, safety and welfare of children connected to students at the College.
- 4.11. Northern College in line with best practice will communicate with students via College provided email, social media or telephone.
- 4.12. The College expects staff to behave in a responsible and professional manner at all times and prohibits sexual relationship between members of staff and students.
- 4.13. The College is committed to ensuring that staff who in good faith whistle-blow in the public interest, will be protected from reprisals and victimisation.

5. Responsibility

- 5.1. The overall responsibility of safeguarding lies with the governing body who will ensure that the College is compliant with safeguarding and Prevent duties within current legislation ensuring policy, procedure and training is effective; alongside support and challenge to the Executive Leadership Team.
- 5.2. The governing body will nominate a Designated Lead Governor for Safeguarding who will liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for reporting of safeguarding compliance in line with legislation and local safeguarding duties.

- 5.3. The Designated Governor is responsible for consulting with the Chair of Governors in the event of allegations made against the College Principal and CEO.
- 5.4. The College in line with good practice will allocate a Designated Safeguarding Lead within executive leadership; the Assistant Principal Student Experience who has overall responsibility for the College safeguarding arrangements.
- 5.5. The Assistant Principal Student Experience is responsible for ensuring that Northern College is effectively represented at Barnsley Adult Safeguarding Board and Barnsley Silver Prevent alongside appropriate partner strategic boards within South Yorkshire and that the College works in line with local and national procedures and policies.
- 5.6. The Head of HR and the Assistant Principal Student Experience are responsible for ensuring that staff training meets the needs of the College safeguarding requirements in line with BMBC Workforce development and training needs audits.
- 5.7. The Assistant Principal Student Experience and the Health and Safety and Premises Manager are responsible for ensuring the effective delivery of an effective risk assessment process for students in line with Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 2074 (updated 2014).
- 5.8. The Head of HR is responsible for ensuring that staff are vetted in line with Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS) legislation.

6. The Prevent Duty

- 6.1. The College is subject to duties within section 26 of Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) in exercising the function of 'having due regard' to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. The Government's counter terrorism strategy is known as CONTEST and Prevent is part of the strategy. CONTEST has four key principles:
 - Pursue to stop terrorist attacks;
 - Prevent to stop individuals from becoming radicalised into terrorism or supporting terrorism;
 - Protect to strengthen protection against a terrorist attack.
 - Prepare to mitigate the impact of terrorism.
- 6.2. Prevent is the pre-criminal space by which individuals are identified and supported to avoid entering the criminal space. Northern College will focus on the Prevent element and support students to understand the risks of exploitation. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism (the vocal or active opposition to fundamental values of rule of law, democracy, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs).
- 6.3. The College will ensure that staff are trained to identify behaviours which may indicate that a child (via contextual safeguarding) or family member/carer who may be at risk or may need protection.
- 6.4. Northern College will ensure that staff and students are aware of the risks of radicalisation and extremism by:
 - ensuring that British values are embedded and promoted throughout curriculum delivery to support students' understanding;
 - delivering effective and local risk based training to governors, staff and students;
 - forensically monitoring all IT traffic;
 - having effective IT user policies;
 - engaging with Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) to ensure specialist advice is implemented into online and IT safer working practice;
 - implementing a robust risk based approach to visiting speakers;
 - ensuring staff and students can respond to threats or incidents which will impact on the College community;
 - ensuring staff and students understand their responsibilities in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism;

- asking all students, staff, governors and visitors to wear College lanyards and ID whilst on campus.
- 6.5. The College will work with external partners to support good practice in relation to responsibility, referrals, due diligence and audit.
 - 6.6. Northern College will support interfaith relationships through an internal multi-faith Chaplaincy service and externally with faith groups and Churches Together.
 - 6.7. The College will monitor use of inter-faith related facilities to ensure appropriate use and management of concerns.

7. Training

- 7.1. Northern College will ensure that all staff receive basic safeguarding adults' awareness training and that training is effective to a minimum of level 1. Training will be supported and monitored via HR.
- 7.2. Northern College safeguarding training compliance will be reviewed annually via the annual appraisal process.
- 7.3. Staff will be expected to take responsibility for their training and renewing when appropriate.
- 7.4. Designated Officers, according to responsibility, will receive training appropriate to the role, the expectation of Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board training strategy and national legislative requirements.
- 7.5. Northern College will engage with and complete Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board training audits as appropriate to ensure compliance, assurance and good practice.
- 7.6. The Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with good practice will receive external support and supervision in line with personal development needs, accountability and assurance.
- 7.7. Northern College Designated Safeguarding Lead will deliver annual training and briefings, where appropriate, to the Board of Governors to ensure compliance and understanding with relevant legislation.

8. Safer Recruitment

- 8.1. Human Resources will lead on all recruitment and determine level of DBS checks required for a role as appropriate.
- 8.2. Any convictions or cautions for 'relevant offences' or 'relevant conduct' (been involved in an action or inaction that has harmed a vulnerable adult) either whilst on College premises or off duty will be referred to the DBS and the Teacher Regulatory Agency.
- 8.3. Where a safeguarding concern has been raised the College is responsible for ensuring that information relating to PiPoT (Person in a Position of Trust) concerns are shared and escalated where appropriate. Any upheld concerns will be referred to the DBS.

9. Monitoring, Review and Dissemination

- 9.1. The policy and administration procedures will be reviewed annually in line with:
 - National legislation and good practice guidance;
 - Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board guidelines and audit requirement;
 - College strategic priorities and curriculum plan;
 - Student feedback;
 - Curriculum, Quality and Student Experience Committee approval.

- 9.2. The Safeguarding Adults Policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Governors to ensure compliance with safeguarding and Prevent duties.
- 9.3. The College will ensure that accurate digital records are retained to evidence where students' have been the subject of a safeguarding intervention. These records will be held for seven years.
- 9.4. Adherence to this policy will be monitored through the audit process through Barnsley Council and Barnsley Adult Safeguarding Board.
- 9.5. Information on safeguarding and Prevent will be disseminated via the following:
- student enrolment and induction sessions;
 - staff induction and training event;
 - curriculum;
 - poster campaigns and notice boards;
 - open days;
 - the College website/social media;
 - student progress meetings;
 - Safeguarding Committee weekly updates.
- 9.6. This policy and its underpinning procedures will be located on the College website.

10. Complaints

- 10.1. All complaints will follow the College complaints procedure.
- 10.2. Complaints will be dealt with in the context of this policy and Barnsley Safeguarding Adults procedures.
- 10.3. Complaints in the first instance should be made in writing to the Quality Manager at Northern College. All complaints will be treated sensitively and seriously with support where appropriate.

11. Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR (General Data Protection Rules)

- 11.1. Confidentiality and appropriate information sharing is key to safeguarding and Northern College expects all staff to maintain confidentiality at all times.
- 11.2. The College will only share information by consent, however, information will be shared with external agencies where it is believed that the safety of a child is compromised or in the interest of public safety.
- 11.3. In line with Data Protection law, Northern College will only share information which is proportionate and relevant for the protection and prevention of abuse.
- 11.4. All information held in relation to safeguarding concerns will be held securely and in line with the Data Protection Act and GDPR for a period of seven years.
- 11.5. Northern College is a data controller in terms of the Data Protection Act and GDPR.
- 11.6. Personal information and any supporting evidence will be held by the College for audit and referral purposes where appropriate.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 12.1. Northern College work is aligned to the Equality Act 2010 which prohibits unfair treatment, eliminating discrimination and advances opportunity of all its students.

13. Policy sign off and ownership details

Document Name:	Adult Safeguarding Policy
-----------------------	---------------------------

Version Number:	2.0
Effective from:	September 2021
Next scheduled review date:	August 2022
Policy owner:	Assistant Principal – Student Experience
Approved by:	Board of Governors

14. Revision history

Version No	Effective date	Revision description/summary of changes	Author
1.0	August 2020	Significant Re-write	Assistant Principal – Student Experience (Diane Lawson)
2.0	September 2021	Minor changes to bring up to date for 2021/22	Assistant Principal – Student Experience (Diane Lawson)

DRAFT

