

Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

Purpose

The purpose of this Safeguarding Policy and its associated procedure documents is to set out our responsibilities, processes and procedures and outline how we will:

- 1.1 - Provide a safe and supportive environment for our staff, students, apprentices and volunteers in the course of our work and University led activities.
- 1.2 - Provide a safe and supportive environment for children and adults at risk who engage with our staff, students, apprentices and volunteers in the course of our work and University-led activities.
- 1.3 - Ensure that staff, students and apprentices facilitating or supporting programmes and activities working with children and adults at risk have defined responsibilities, as set out in the associated documents.
- 1.4 - Ensure that staff, students and apprentices engaging with children and adults at risk receive relevant safeguarding training and understand their role and responsibilities
- 1.5 - Ensure that there is a clear reporting and escalation route should staff, students or apprentices become aware of a Safeguarding concern.

Scope

The University of York recognises that its Safeguarding responsibilities may arise in relation to a wide range of groups. This includes:

- 2.1 - All registered students, including those on a Leave of Absence
- 2.2 - All current staff
- 2.3 - Children and adults at risk engaged in University of York activities e.g. outreach, recruitment, volunteering activities and public and community engagement on and off campus.
- 2.4 - Children and adults at risk staying in University accommodation. This includes residential events schools.
- 2.5 - Children and adults at risk undertaking work experience and work placements.
The University of York Student Union, as an independent Students' Union has its own Safeguarding policy.

2.6 - The University interacts with partners who will hold the primary Safeguarding responsibilities e.g. Schools, Health and Social Care settings, Partner institutions. In these instances where other institutions hold the primary Safeguarding responsibility their procedures will take precedence. However, this does not preclude the University taking action under this policy and procedure if it sees fit to do so.

2.7 - Due to the specific context and regulatory framework the University Nursery, [Apprenticeship provision](#) and York Sports have distinct policies. All other safeguarding concerns should be considered through this University policy and procedures. However, Safeguarding is everyone's

responsibility and if staff or students are unsure how, or whether to raise a concern, the flowchart in Appendix A provides guidance.

Definitions

Safeguarding

3.1 - 'Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect'. Care Quality Commission 2022.

3.2 - Legal safeguarding duties apply to all children and young people under 18. Where this policy mentions young people, this should be read as being under the age of 18 years.

3.3 - Legal safeguarding duties further apply to an adult at risk of harm. An adult at risk of harm is someone aged 18 years or over who has care and support needs, (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting those needs), and is experiencing, or at risk of abuse and neglect and, as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from abuse and neglect or the risk of it. We also consider adults who are at risk of exploitation, including radicalisation, as falling within scope. The University is primarily an adult environment and recognising an adult at risk can be difficult. Staff are encouraged to consider these three questions;

1. Does the adult have need for specific care and support?
2. Is the adult experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect?
3. As a result of their support needs, are they unable to protect themselves from the risk of abuse or neglect?

3.4 - Types of Safeguarding concerns

- Physical abuse
- Modern slavery
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self neglect
- Financial or material abuse

Appendix E provides more details.

Policy statement

Principles

4.1 - The University will follow the six safeguarding principles set out in the Care Act 2014;

- Empowerment. People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent
- Prevention. It is better to act before harm occurs
- Proportionality. The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented

- Protection. To support and protect those in greatest need.
- Partnership. Working collaboratively with other agencies
- Accountability. To be transparent about, and responsible for, our safeguarding practices

4.2 - The University will;

- Provide clear leadership and lines of accountability for safeguarding
- Provide appropriate training
- Provide supervision and support for staff, students and volunteers
- Implement procedures for minimising risk including risk assessment and safer recruitment practices
- Establish clear reporting mechanisms including arrangements for sharing information with external Safeguarding partners
- Implement whistleblowing procedures and a culture which enables issues about Safeguarding to be discussed.

4.3 - The University seeks to safeguard children and adults at risk by:

- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, including taking up references and ensuring that, where appropriate, staff and volunteers undertake Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks at the appropriate level or, for international students, a Certificate of Good Conduct.
- Ensuring students accepted onto undergraduate and postgraduate degrees obtain a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure when their course requires it.
- Producing safeguarding guidance for staff and volunteers visiting schools, or involved in on-campus activities, as part of outreach, student recruitment, volunteering or widening participation programmes.
- Undertaking a risk assessment for organised activities on campus to ensure the safety of children and adults at risk.
- Undertaking a risk assessment for organised activities off campus to ensure the safety of children and adults at risk.
- Ensuring that the Campus Nursery and Apprenticeship provision are covered by appropriate safeguarding procedures that comply with Ofsted requirements.
- Having in place specific procedures around managing applications from, and monitoring the wellbeing of, students who are under 17 on the first day of the month in which their programme commences, and sharing this information with appropriate staff.
- Helping staff recognise their responsibilities and ensuring they are aware of the procedure they should follow if they suspect a child or adult at risk is experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing, harm.
- Sharing information, when appropriate, about concerns with relevant external agencies.

University Safeguarding Structure

5.1 - While Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and anybody can report a Safeguarding concern to local authorities, the University of York has a process in place to support staff and student volunteers to report. Following this process will also help the

University of York maintain accurate records and act when it sees any Safeguarding trends. Where appropriate the University will work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure that children and adults at risk are protected from harm.

5.2 - When staff or student volunteers become aware that there is, or may be, a Safeguarding issue then their role is to escalate this to their Local Safeguarding Officer or to the central Safeguarding leads using [Report+Support](#)

- Local Safeguarding Officers (LSO) are a point of contact in Faculties/Directorates for staff and students to seek advice, and to be signposted to reporting mechanisms
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) are the operational leads for Safeguarding and can provide advice, guidance and have the authority to escalate to external agencies.
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the strategic lead for safeguarding. They will ensure that the University's policies, procedures, systems and general activities comply with current legislation and the University of York Safeguarding Policy.

5.3 - While there are specific Safeguarding roles, Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Deans and Directors are responsible for ensuring that Safeguarding is appropriately handled within their Faculty/Service.

The responsibilities of these roles are detailed in Appendix B.

5.4- The University has a Safeguarding Advisory Group and a CONTEST Oversight Group to provide oversight and advice to ensure the University of York is meeting its Safeguarding responsibilities. The Safeguarding Advisory Group reports into the Student Life Committee. The CONTEST Oversight Group is a sub-committee of, and reports to, the University Executive Board.

How to report a Safeguarding concern

6.1 - If you are concerned that someone is in immediate risk of imminent harm you should contact emergency services on 999 or contact campus security on 01904 32 3333 or via Safezone.

If you are concerned about a non-emergency safeguarding issue speak to your Local Safeguarding Officer, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, or raise a concern through Report+Support

6.2 - If staff are unsure whether there is a safeguarding issue then they should discuss this with a Local Safeguarding Officer, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who can provide advice and guidance.

6.3 - The flowchart in Appendix A should be used to help staff follow the correct process. Staff should not assume that someone else will take action. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Staff should be aware that early sharing of information is often vital to enable an effective intervention that might keep a young person or adult at risk safe.

- Any Safeguarding concerns about abusive behaviour by a member of staff against a child or an adult at risk should be reported directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- Any Safeguarding concerns about a Local Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead should be taken directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Any Safeguarding concerns about the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be taken directly to the Vice Chancellor.
- Any safeguarding concerns about the Vice Chancellor should be taken directly to the Chair of Council.

Responding to a safeguarding concern

6.4 - Information submitted that raises a safeguarding concern is received by staff with safeguarding responsibilities and is read and responded to within two working days.

Prevent Duty

7.2 - Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on universities in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The University has documented its response to this statutory duty to support the Safeguarding of students and staff from radicalisation in its [Prevent Duty Policy and Procedures](#). The University provides Prevent training to staff to help staff better understand the Prevent Duty and enhance their ability to recognise vulnerable individuals who may need support.

7.3 - The University regards its Prevent duty as part of its community safeguarding responsibilities to protect the welfare and safety of our students. For a Prevent case the approach taken will be a supportive one, the priority being to ensure that the student is safeguarded from harm. This may include the DSL or a DDSL referring a case into Channel (the Prevent Multi-Agency Panel). Channel is a multi-agency partnership that works with safeguarding partnerships and crime reduction panels in order to assess referrals of vulnerable individuals that are at risk of being drawn into Terrorism. Channel is administered and coordinated by police but chaired by the local authority.

7.4 - Concerns about radicalisation should be reported in the same way as other Safeguarding concerns.

Monitoring and review

1. The policy is reviewed annually and ongoing monitoring is overseen by the Safeguarding Advisory Panel.

Appendices

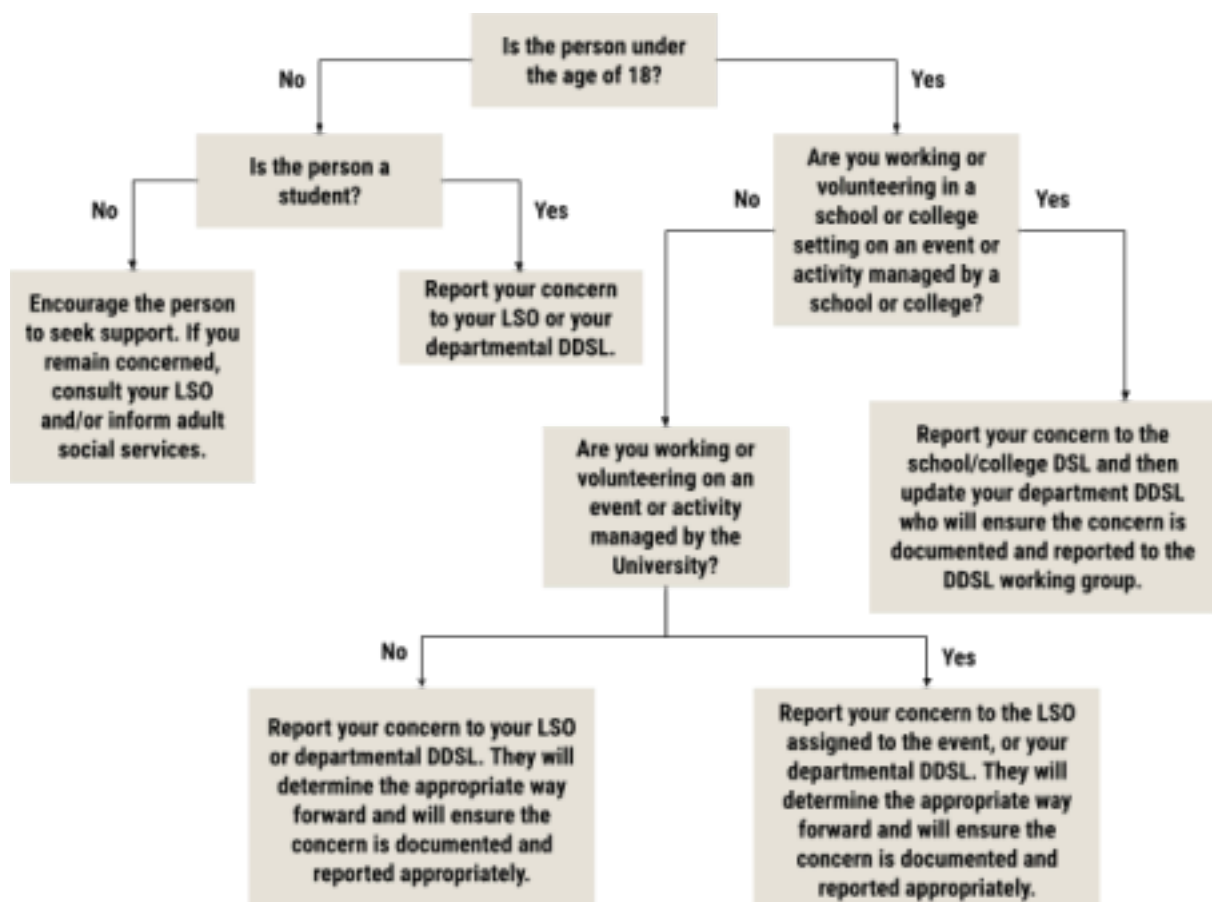
Appendix A - How to report a Safeguarding Concern

If you are concerned that someone is in immediate risk of imminent harm you should contact emergency services on **999** or contact campus security on **01904 32 3333**.

If you are concerned about a non-emergency safeguarding issue speak to their Local Safeguarding Officer, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, or use [Report+Support](#)

If staff are unsure whether there is a safeguarding issue then they should discuss this with a Local Safeguarding Officer, a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who can provide advice and guidance.

This flowchart shows the steps that should be taken if you have concerns that a child or an adult at risk is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing harm.



Process description

If the person is **over the age of 18 and a student**, report your concern to your LSO or departmental DDSL.

If the person is **over the age of 18 and not a student**, you should encourage the person to seek support. If you remain concerned, consult your LSO and/or inform adult social services.

If the person is **under the age of 18 and you are working or volunteering** in a school or college setting on an event or activity **managed by a school or college**, report your concern to the school/college DSL. Once you've done this, update a University DDSL who will ensure the concern is documented and reported to the DDSL working group.

If the person is **under the age of 18 and you are not working or volunteering in a school or college setting but the activity or event is managed by the University**, report your concern to your LSO/ DDSL. They will determine the appropriate way forward and will ensure the concern is documented and reported appropriately. If you are unsure whether the event or activity is managed by the University, you should still report your concern to the LSO assigned to the event or a DDSL.

- If it's an emergency/out-of-hours and the DDSL cannot be contacted, contact the relevant child or adult social services or police.
- If the immediate safety of a person is at risk, contact the emergency services and inform the DDSL.

Other important information

- Safeguarding takes precedence over data protection/privacy. You do not need to consent to share information about a safeguarding matter.
- Any concerns about abusive behaviour by a member of staff or student against a person under 18 or an adult at risk needs to be reported promptly to a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).
- Any staff or student may also report safeguarding concerns to an external body such as Social Services or the police. In such a case, the responsibilities set out in the safeguarding policy still apply.
- It is not the responsibility of staff to investigate, make judgements or provide a response to safeguarding matters. They simply have to follow the reporting procedure if they have concerns.
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) will take appropriate steps. These may include one or more of the following:
 - Make a referral to the local social services
 - Contact the police
 - Take steps to initiate the appropriate staff or student disciplinary procedure
 - Arrange for the student to be given appropriate support
 - Considered at the DDSL working group
 - For Prevent-related cases, discuss with University Prevent Lead

Appendix B - Designated Safeguarding Leads: Role and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead [DSL].

The DSL has strategic oversight of the University's Safeguarding policy, process and training with responsibility for ensuring the University meets its Safeguarding obligations to children and adults at risk. The University's DSL is the Chief Academic Support Officer.

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead [DDSL]

The DDSLs are the nominated deputies for the DSL and are the operational leads for Safeguarding cases, activity and training. The list of DDSLs can be found on the University's Safeguarding Team [webpage](#).

The key responsibilities of these leads include;

- Referring concerns to social services or the police
- Cooperating with other agencies when there are Safeguarding concerns
- Supporting staff, students, volunteers who have Safeguarding concerns
- Keeping accurate records of Safeguarding concerns and contribute to the central Safeguarding record to ensure a complete collection of incidents
- Ensure the safeguarding policy and procedure is fit for purpose
- Raise awareness of the importance of Safeguarding and the University's Safeguarding structure to staff, students and volunteers
- Undertake appropriate training, update knowledge and skills and keep up to date with any relevant developments
- Ensure relevant staff, students and volunteers receive appropriate Safeguarding training

Local Safeguarding Officers (LSO) should be appointed within each Faculty and Service by the Dean or Director of that area. Each area will have at least one Local Safeguarding Officer. The Students' Union should also have a local safeguarding officer and commit to providing them with training. Each LSO will;

- provide first line support and advice on Safeguarding issues
- highlight and promote best practice relating to Safeguarding
- undertake appropriate Safeguarding training and commit to regular CPD
- ensure appropriate local procedures are in place

The LSOs will meet annually with a DDSL for a review and discussion of the past year and new developments, and to update resources. The University will provide training that equips them to carry out their role effectively.

Prevent Duty Accountability and Policy Lead [PDAPL] is the University Secretary, and has strategic and regulatory responsibility for ensuring the University is compliant with the Prevent Duty requirements set out by the Home Office and the Office for Students (OfS). They facilitate consideration and ultimate approval by the University Council of the Prevent Duty Annual Report, and associated annual declarations returns for submission to OfS.

Head of Prevent Duty Operations [HPDO] is responsible for coordinating all activities (e.g. liaison with Channel and the Department for Education Prevent Regional Co-ordinator, training, monitoring, policy) which ensure compliance with the Prevent Duty requirements. The HPDO reports to the PDAPL and deputises for the PDAPL in their absence.

Deans and Directors are responsible for ensuring that Safeguarding is appropriately handled within their Faculty/Service. They should ensure;

- Sufficient resources are available to deliver Safeguarding commitments within their Faculty/Service

- Local Safeguarding Officers (LSO) are fully trained and engage in refresher training
- All staff know how to seek Safeguarding advice and escalate Safeguarding concerns
- Appropriate risk assessments are undertaken for relevant activities within their department
- Appropriate DBS checks are undertaken for relevant staff/students/volunteers within their department
- Staff understand the implications of accepting students under 18 years old and ensure the course design and content is appropriate for a young person under 18
- Staff understand the implications of employing a young person under 18
- Staff understand the implications of their students working in any capacity (paid or voluntary) with children or adults at risk within the local community
- Students or trainees who undertake regulated activity as part of their professional placement receive the appropriate preparation, training and ongoing support

Appendix C - Safeguarding Contacts

If you are unsure who to raise a Safeguarding query with, or want to raise it centrally, please use [Report+Support](#)

You can find your Faculty/Directorate/Area [Local Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead here](#)

External Safeguarding Contacts

- City of York Council Children's Social Care 01904 613161
- City of York Council Safeguarding Children Board 01904 555650
 - www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk
- York Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 01904 551900 and select option 3 or email MASH@york.gov.uk.
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for North Yorkshire and City of York contact via the Customer Service Centre 01609 780780
- City of York Safeguarding Adults Board 01904 555111
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- Prevent Lead within the City of York Council: Name: Jane Mowat Tel: 01904 555742- 07984 496352 Email: jane.mowat@york.gov.uk
- Police Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764 to call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a child or young person

Appendix D – Additional safeguarding guidance for working with young people under 18

All staff and volunteers involved in events for children and young people under the age of 18, must be committed to the health and safety of all participants and be aware of safeguarding issues and procedures. It is the staff or volunteers responsibility to understand the requirements of the event or venue.

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) 2026 - GOV.UK guidance requires the University when working with school children to both safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental or physical health or development

- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children have the best outcomes

All staff and volunteers who are involved in activities with children and young people will be assessed based on the responsibilities of the role, using government guidelines, to ensure appropriate checks, references, and relevant DBS checks are carried out. Staff and volunteers without satisfactory disclosure from the DBS should not be given unsupervised access to children and it is the responsibility of programme organisers to ensure that procedure is followed.

Some children have an increased risk of abuse and face additional barriers to recognising or disclosing it. These children may benefit from early help. We give special consideration to children that may be deemed as higher risk who may benefit from early help. This may include a child or young person who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- has a mental illness
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to antisocial or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves
- has returned home to their family from care
- is at risk of 'honour' based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage
- is a privately fostered child, and is persistently absent from education

Reporting

Staff members or volunteers who have any concern or suspicion about any child or young person involved in a University event or programme, or an adult working on a University event, programme or school should bring their concerns to the attention of:

- In the case of staff and volunteers working in school environments, on programmes or activities delivered and managed by the school, concerns should be raised with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance and then reported to their University LSO. The school's safeguarding policy should then be followed.
- In the case of staff and volunteers working on programmes, events or activities delivered or overseen by the University, concerns should be raised with the University LSO in charge. The LSO, working with the DDSL, will determine the appropriate course of action and liaise with external Designated Safeguarding Leads where appropriate.

The University LSO, or DDSL, will ensure that an accurate account of the disclosed incident is established, as quickly as possible, in order to determine the level of risk posed to an individual (or individuals) and to

determine whether or not any form of action such as referral is required. The designated person reserves the right to suspend the staff member or volunteer from working on activities involving children or young people until the investigation is complete. All such reports should be recorded in local departmental records.

Conduct regarding Children and Young People

In order to ensure that their own behaviour is not misinterpreted staff and volunteers should adhere to the following:

- All conversations with children or young people must be conducted in a public place.
- Physical contact with children or young people must be avoided.
- Unless circumstances make it impossible to comply, do not take a child or young person to the toilet unless either another staff member or volunteer is present.
- If you find you are in a situation where you are alone with a child or young person wherever practicable make sure that others can clearly observe you.
- Avoid close personal relationships with a child or young person in relation to whom you are in a position of trust.
- Do not make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about a child or young person, even in fun, as this could be misinterpreted.
- If a child or young person accuses a volunteer or member of staff of abuse or inappropriate behaviour, you should report this immediately to the relevant person.
- The duty to report applies equally to complaints or accusations of historic, and not just recent, abuse/inappropriate behaviour.
- If physical restraint of a child or young person is required for his or her own safety, or that of another child, the minimum force should be used for the least possible time. An incident report should be written and should include the names of staff and witnesses.
- If first aid is necessary and is administered by a trained professional, an incident report should be completed and the names of any staff and witnesses should be included. School procedures should be followed.
- You must not take a child or young person alone in a vehicle on journeys.
- If a child or young person makes a complaint, or if there are other reasons for suspecting abuse, you should not attempt to investigate this yourself, but should report your concerns to the designated person.
- It can be an abuse of trust for an adult in a protective relationship with a younger person to form a close, personal relationship with him or her. Staff and volunteers must avoid any suggestion that a close, personal relationship exists or is desired. Behaviour that could imply a special relationship, for example gifts or endearments, should also be avoided.
- Giving personal contact details to a child or requesting theirs is not permitted. This includes address, email, phone and mobile number. Contact should not take place through any social media site and this includes adding or accepting a young person as a “follower” on any social media site.
- It is important that staff and volunteers ensure that they have tight privacy settings on social media networks and if a student attempts to add you via social media please inform the designated person as soon as possible.
- Short-range wireless technologies such as Bluetooth and Airdrop should be turned off while working at events with children or young people or attending a school or college on behalf of the University of York.

In order to embed excellent safeguarding practices it is important that all staff fully understand and adhere to this Code of Conduct. The way we work has significantly changed in recent years and online events and websites are useful tools to help us engage with children and young people. However, if misused, they can also pose potential safeguarding risks, and this may lead to abuse, both online and offline.

Appendix E - Glossary

Safeguarding

Safeguarding means, 'protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect', Care Quality Commission 2022.

Safeguarding Children

A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. In defining our approach towards children, the University draws on the definition used by the DfE in harms in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) 2026.

While KCSiE only applies to Schools and Colleges, we will play our part in:

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

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

An adult at risk is someone aged 18 years or over 'who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of mental ill health or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'. While the University is not subject to the provisions of the Care Act 2014, the University draws broadly on this act to inform its policy on safeguarding Adults at Risk. We will play our part to:

- Ensure that the rights of Adults at Risk are protected to enable them to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- Ensure that the wellbeing of the Adult at Risk is promoted and that in deciding on any action to be taken we will take into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs, for example when considering whether to refer concerns to statutory bodies or when seeking support from charitable organisations.

However we recognise that Adults at Risk sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and may not fully appreciate potential risks to their safety or well-being and therefore it may not always be possible to fully defer to their wishes when seeking the best way forward.

Abuse

Abuse covers every form of 'abuse', including sexual, emotional, psychological, material, financial, physical, discriminatory, organisational abuse and any acts of omission.

Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 is a reformed law that is related to the support and care for carers and adults. This act came into force in April 2015. Clauses 42-45 of this Act gives the statutory framework for protecting adults from abuse and neglect.

Channel

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.

DBS

DBS is the acronym used for the Disclosure and Barring Service. The DBS is a governmental body that was established in 2012 through the Protection of Freedoms Act. It was the merger of two former organisations, the CRB and the ISA.

Discriminatory abuse

Treating a person less favourably, and therefore denying their human and/or civil rights, based solely on class or category, i.e. gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, preferred language, etc. Discriminatory behaviours take many forms, but they all involve some form of exclusion or rejection.

Domestic violence or abuse

Any violence or abuse between current or former partners in an intimate relationship, wherever and whenever violence occurs. The violence or abuse may include physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse.

Financial or material abuse

The illegal or unauthorised theft or use of a person's property, money or other valuables. Crimes associated with this type of abuse include theft, undue influence and forgery.

Harm

Harm refers to any ill-treatment including sexual abuse and ill-treatment that isn't physical, the avoidable deterioration and or impairment in physical or mental health. of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

Hate crime

Any crime that is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be racist, homophobic, transphobic or due to a person's religion, belief, gender identity or disability.

MARAC

MARAC is short for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and is a multi-agency forum of organisations. These organisations manage high-risk cases of honour-based violence, stalking and domestic abuse.

MASH

MASH stands for Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. This service comprises Police, Adult Services, NHS and other organisations. MASH helps agencies to act quickly in a coordinated and consistent way. This means

that the person at risk

Modern slavery

This encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Neglect or acts of omission

The persistent failure to meet basic physical and psychological needs is likely to result in the serious impairment of health or development. This may involve factors, such as, inappropriate clothing, food, inappropriate attention, lack of supervision, lack of safety or exposure to undue cold or unnecessary risk of injury. It may also include neglect of basic emotional needs.

Online Abuse

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and adults at risk may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse. Children and adults at risk can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example, bullying or grooming) or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example, persuading children or adults at risk to take part in sexual activity online).

Organisational or institutional abuse

Occurs when an individual's wishes and needs are sacrificed to a smooth running of a group, service or organisation. It involves the mistreatment of people brought about by poor or inadequate care or support and is characterised by systematic poor practice including inappropriate use of rules, rituals, routines and/or restrictive practices. These may all damage a person's right to independence, respect, dignity or choice.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to an individual. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Prevent

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming involved in violent extremism or supporting terrorism, in all its forms. Prevent works within the non-criminal space, using early engagement to encourage individuals and communities to challenge violent extremist ideologies and behaviours.

Psychological or emotional abuse

A form of abuse which may involve the persistent emotional maltreatment of an individual, such as, to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on emotional development. It may involve conveying that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving a child or adult at risk the opportunity 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 the child or adult at risk's

developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the individual participating in normal social interaction. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing individuals to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption.

Risk of radicalisation

Involves the exploitation of susceptible people who are drawn into violent extremism by radicalisers often using a persuasive rationale and charismatic individuals to attract people to their cause. The aim is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. The PREVENT Strategy, launched in 2007, seeks to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Self-neglect

Self-neglect is the intentional, or unintentional, inability to maintain a socially and culturally accepted standard of self-care, that results in serious consequences to the health and well-being of the individual.

Sexting

Is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video. This includes sending 'nude pics', 'rude pics' or 'nude selfies'. Pressuring someone into sending a nude picture can happen in any relationship and to anyone, whatever their age, gender or sexual preference. However, once the image is taken and sent, the sender has lost control of the image and these images could end up anywhere. By having in their possession, or distributing, indecent images of a person under 18 to someone else, young people are not even aware that they could be breaking the law as stated as these are offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Sexual abuse

A form of abuse involving forcing or enticing a child, young person or adult at risk to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether the individual is aware of what is happening. The activities 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 looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Appendix F - Safeguarding risk assessment

Risk assessments should be conducted for organised activities which involve children and young people. The risk assessment should be approved by a senior staff member.

Risk Assessments should include careful consideration of what could cause harm to children and young people, and an assessment of how risks can be mitigated or avoided where practicable to prevent harm. Safeguarding should be of the utmost importance during this assessment. Further information can be found on the NSPCC website ([Managing safeguarding risks when planning activities](#)).

All those involved in the risk assessment process should understand that the risk assessment is not only a way to mitigate or remove any potential risks but may also be a prompt to consider alternative

working practices. The risk assessment process should encompass all aspects of health and safety e.g. fire etc.

For further guidance about completing risk assessment please undertake the University of York's Risk Assessment Training or seek advice from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Department.

Document control

Approval body:	Student Life Committee
Policy Owner:	Chief Academic Services Officer
Responsible Service:	Student Life and Wellbeing
Policy Manager:	Head of Student Support and Communities
Equality Impact Assessment:	Not relevant for this policy
Approval date:	June 2026
Effective from:	June 2026
Date of next review:	June 2027