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Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy

This policy sets outs Lancaster University's approach to safeguarding the welfare of children and adults at risk and child protection. The University has developed Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Procedures and Guidance and Prevent Guidance to provide more detailed operational guidance to staff about responding to safeguarding concerns within the University.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding in Research Framework and other relevant policies referenced above, e.g. the Lancaster University 'Student Discipline Regulations', the 'Student Sexual Misconduct Policy', the 'Student Bullying and Harassment Policy', the 'Computer User Agreement', 'Supported Study and Fitness to Study Policy and Procedures', 'Fitness to Practice Procedures', the 'Code of Practice: Freedom of Speech', and staff 'Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy'.

1. Legal Context for Safeguarding in Higher Education

1.1 Safeguarding is about preventing harm caused by abuse and neglect. The legal duties focus on certain vulnerable groups, namely 'children' and 'adults at risk' (sometimes called "vulnerable adults") who are experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect.

These children and adults at risk may be a student, a staff member or anyone connected with the University community (e.g. a research participant, a child on campus as part of a school group).

The University uses definitions of the term 'safeguarding' from statutory guidance.

Safeguarding children is defined by the Department for Education in Working together to safeguard children as:

The Higher Education Sector has not had specific duties placed on it by legislation in respect of safeguarding, however institutions are expected to ensure that children, young people and adults at risk are safe and protected in all interactions with an institution. The University may also hold specific responsibilities for safeguarding under the compliance frameworks of various accrediting bodies and research funders (e.g. UKRI).

1.2 Lancaster University's commitment to our applicants, students, staff, partner bodies and the community at large are defined in our Strategic Plan, People and Culture Plan 2021-2026, and Student Charter.

Lancaster University acknowledges our responsibilities towards safeguarding groups and individuals at risk, in particular those relating to the protection of children and adults at risk identified under the following (not exhaustive):

- Human Rights Act (1998)
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make an informed decision, confidentiality may be breached to protect that individual. Where such instances occur, the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead (or nominee) will take advice from relevant professional teams and consult with the Data Protection Officer and the Strategic Planning and Governance team before

3.3 Child protection – child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

3.4 Partner body

- we have a knowledge that an employer/placement supervisor/professional body would have a legitimate interest/concern.

4.2 Where the University has made arrangements with a partner body, staff, students

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6. Children on campus

6.1 The responsibility for the safety of any child brought onto campus lies with the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will also be responsible for:

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7.5 Lead Division (Staff) –

Appendix 1

Designated Safeguarding Leads, Deputies and Local Safeguarding Officers: Roles and Responsibilities

A list of current Designated Safeguarding Leads, Deputies and Local Safeguarding Officers is available here: Safeguarding concerns

1. Designated Safeguarding Leads

1.1 The University's Designated Safeguarding Leads have the following responsibilities:

- setting the direction for the University's safeguarding practice for staff/students;
- ensuring the institution is meeting its legal and statutory requirements including the Prevent Duty;
- undertaking higher level safeguarding and Prevent awareness training and leading on this for the institution;
- holding decision making authority on the application of this policy;
- promoting and championing safeguarding to ensure that it is prioritised at a senior level within the institution;
- ensuring safe recruitment and that appropriate checks are made on staff undertaking 'regulated activity';
- making sure safeguarding policies and procedures are fully implemented and followed by staff, students and volunteers;
- ensuring appropriate training on safeguarding, safer recruitment and Prevent is in place as part of induction for all staff, students and volunteers, and that a register of staff who have completed training is maintained and that training is refreshed on a regular basis;
- ensuring that Council members and members of the University senior management team have received safeguarding and Prevent training;
- keeping all staff, students and volunteers informed of good practice and new legislation and guidance;
- ensuring all students and staff have sufficient and appropriate means to report concerns, issues, and incidents;
- providing support, supervision and advice for any staff member, student or volunteer with a safeguarding or child protection concern;
- handling allegations made against staff/students;
- having an understanding of the referral procedures and knowing how to contact and establish links with local authority or police;
- liaising with and making referrals to appropriate agencies about staff where there are safeguarding concerns, including the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO);
- liaising with the Emergency Planning and Risk Manager to refer cases to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and supporting staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;

meet termly as a group to share good practice, updates and developments relevant to safeguarding, and to make suggestions for improvement or further consideration to the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Local Safeguarding Officers can also ask for advice from the University's Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.