

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Kirklees College Corporation

**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**
**Minutes of a meeting held from 12.00 to 13.35 on 8 Nov 2019 at the Huddersfield Centre**

Present:	Mrs C George Ms M Gilluley Mr J Royle Mr J Williams	Member (Chair) Member (Executive) Member Member
Attendance:	4/5 = 80%	KPI 80% Quorum: 3
In attendance:	Ms J Green Ms C Gonzalez-Eslava Mrs P Harrow Mr R Hillas Mr N Shaw	Clerk to the Corporation Vice Principal Assistant Principal for Inclusion and Safeguarding Deputy DSL (Dewsbury) Deputy DSL (Huddersfield)

Item	Action/ Report Item
<b>PRELIMINARY ITEMS</b>	
<b>0</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>
i	Due notice having been given and a quorum being present, the chair declared the meeting open.
<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
i	Apologies were received from Committee member Mr G Hetherington.
ii	All confirmed that, other than items previously disclosed and placed on record, they had no direct or indirect interest in any way in the business to be transacted at the meeting which they were required to disclose.
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b>
i	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b>  <b>(i) To approve the minutes of 10 May 2019 as an accurate record.</b>  <u>Matters arising not on the Agenda</u>
ii	Ms Gilluley ("MG") reported on a joint venture with Greenhead College and New College to advocate for improved borough-wide mental health provision, saying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A programme of training for parents on dealing with mental health issues in teenagers had been a success, with 20 Kirklees College parents benefitting;</li> <li>➤ The Local Authority recognised that there was a gap in provision and expected the colleges to ask for more support; the colleges were compiling data in readiness and it was agreed that management should share the 2018-19 Safeguarding Report with the Local Authority to demonstrate the scale of need.</li> </ul>
iii	A need for consistency in referencing the 'Safeguarding Committee' (rather than 'the Safeguarding Working Group' (as in the Safeguarding guidance) or the 'SAG'.

Item	Action/ Report Item	
iv	<p><u>Update on Agreed Actions</u></p> <p><b><u>Item 6 Draft statement on 'high risk' applicants to be produced for Corporation</u></b></p> <p>This had been actioned and the Chair reported on the positive outcome.</p>	
<b>BUSINESS OF THE MEETING</b>		
3	<p><b>UPDATE ON DRAFT ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT</b></p> <p>i The Committee reflected on its responsibility with regard to the Annual Safeguarding Report (the "Report") due for presentation at the Corporation's 13 December meeting.</p> <p>ii Mrs P Harrow Assistant Principal for Inclusion and Safeguarding ("PH") introduced the report, highlighting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reporting was against the Common Inspection Framework, not the Education Inspection Framework, the Report being concerned with last year's activities;</li> <li>➤ She was the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead;</li> <li>➤ The nominated Governor for Safeguarding was Mr J Williams;</li> <li>➤ The College's policies remained compliant with safeguarding legislation and guidance and had been updated for recent changes.</li> </ul> <p>iii The Committee was pleased to learn that, although there had been a substantial increase in referrals (28%) and case complexity, retention for those referred (519 individuals) had increased by over 11%, reflecting the positive feedback the team received from its service users. PH said of the total referrals, 12 translated into Prevent referrals for extreme right-wing ideology and 22 were knife crime referrals, a substantial increase from the previous year reflecting a worrying national trend.</p> <p>iv Members agreed that the significant increase in drug referrals was a key concern (48 as compared with 25 in 2017/18) and that normalisation of drug use in society and the tolerance of it by an under-resourced police force were significant factors. PH said a challenge for the College was to ensure its response properly acknowledged what was going on in the outside world. Discussions about thresholds of tolerance had uncovered disagreement amongst staff as to what the official line should be but management had elected to focus on addressing drug dealing through embedding a coaching culture and restorative practice and had adopted a more tolerant approach to drug use, educating students to act responsibly to reduce personal risk and so as not to disrupt learning.</p> <p>v There was discussion about knife crime, which was agreed to be a more serious matter requiring a no-tolerance approach. PH said it was increasingly common for students to carry knives, ostensibly for protection, and although unfortunately there was a real risk that excluded offenders would lose their only pathway away from prison, student safety was paramount.</p> <p>vi PH reported that the 40% reduction in Child in Need plans was creating risks, including capacity and resourcing issues, as the level of need had not reduced but fewer learners were qualifying for plans due to increased thresholds set by social services. Members were concerned to hear that safeguarding team members were spending substantial time petitioning to have cases reopened, or in child protection meetings for those who would previously have had Child in Need plans. In response to a question, PH said the lowering of the threshold reflected a national trend but thresholds were set locally.</p> <p>vii The Committee was pleased to hear that positioning Precision Strategy meetings</p>	

Item		Action/ Report Item
	(formerly gang meetings) with the Police, rather than the Local Authority, had proved a positive step. PH said College representatives attended meetings at all levels up to Gold and the Police were keen to see their concerns about the withdrawal of interventions and support for young people addressed, particularly support for those turning 18, who could easily fall into a gap. The expectation that Children's Services and social services would attend the Precision meetings was also proving beneficial. A member commented that the College was clearly well regarded by its partner agencies and this was agreed to be the case.	
viii	There had been two student deaths by suicide in 2018/19: both white males between 16-18 enrolled on full time courses (Construction and Engineering). Their deaths had been the subject of serious case reviews. Committee members expressed condolences to the families of the students concerned and there was discussion about how such events were reported to the Corporation. MG said the usual rule was that if an event was expected to generate some media interest, the Chair of Corporation and the nominated Governor for safeguarding would be told immediately and a communication strategy would be agreed for other Governors. Lower profile incidents would normally be reported at the next Safeguarding Committee or Corporation meeting.	
ix	A member commented on the high number of safeguarding referrals from the area Animal Care and PH agreed that this was an exceptionally vulnerable cohort, presenting challenges for the local management team due to the high number of needs on one campus. She said the fact that it was a small and contained site meant it was good for learners needing additional security but pressures on staff were high.	
x	Members were pleased with the annual safeguarding report, saying it was a good illustration of how effectively the College was responding to some very challenging circumstances. It was agreed that the report should be recommended for approval and that it should be shared widely with partners at management's discretion.	
xi	<b>Corporation Report:</b> The Committee considers that the Safeguarding Annual Report 2018-19 gives a good account of the challenges the College confronted in 2018-19 and how it responded. It recommends to the Corporation that it be approved.	Report Item 1
xii	<b>Action:</b> The Safeguarding Annual Report 2018-19 to be added to the documents pack for the Further Education Commissioner ("FEC") team visit and sent to the Education & Skills Funding Agency for information. Mrs C George will discuss it with the FEC's Mandy Exley.	SLT, CG
<b>4</b>	<b>UPDATE ON THE ENROLMENT SCRUTINY PANEL PROCESS</b>	
i	The Committee was pleased to note that concerns it had raised at a previous meeting regarding the College's admissions policy had been addressed through the creation of a new process: the Enrolment Scrutiny Panel Process. This was working very well, with feedback from partners that it was a highly effective process. Fourteen panels had taken place, with six applicants deemed too high risk to enrol.	
ii	PH emphasised that partnership working with the Police and Youth Offending Service was a crucial part of the process. All six applicants denied access to the College based on partner agency intelligence had subsequently progressed into the criminal justice system within weeks of the decisions, some for extremely serious criminal behaviour.	
iii	<b>Corporation report:</b> The Enrolment Scrutiny Panel Process approved by the Corporation earlier this year is having a positive impact and involved partner agencies consider it a highly effective process. The outcomes for those deemed too	Report Item 2

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	high risk for admission and turned away (in terms of arrests and imprisonment for serious offences) illustrates the extent to which the new process has made the College safer, as well as the impact of the Safeguarding Committee's intervention.	
5	<p><b>UPDATE ON THE VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT</b></p> <p>i MG and PH explained that the College had missed out on the first round of bids for a share of central government funding released into local authorities to reduce youth violence in areas having high numbers of A&amp;E admissions due to knife wounds. Due to a misunderstanding of the rather opaque guidance, the College's bid for funding was not received by decision-makers, so the College missed out. There would be another opportunity to apply in March.</p>	
6	<p><b>UPDATES FROM DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS</b></p> <p>i Mr R Hillas and Mr N Shaw reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Funding had been obtained to recruit an additional 0.5 FTE post to the safeguarding team, adding much needed capacity from 2 December;</li> <li>➤ There had been 339 safeguarding referrals to date in 2019-20 compared to 219 in the same period the previous year.</li> <li>➤ The profile of referrals was changing; in particular, the curriculum areas of construction and engineering were featuring strongly, whereas they had not previously been problematic;</li> <li>➤ Gang related incidents were being recorded separately for the first time to identify how many incidents were related to organised crime/gangs;</li> <li>➤ 48 Child in Need and child protection cases ongoing, a significant increase on 2018-19 despite the raising of the threshold;</li> <li>➤ Social workers involved with students coming to the College from schools were becoming more likely to pick up the phone and engage, but schools were still inconsistent in raising safeguarding information with the College and files were being received late in the Autumn term for students that have long since left;</li> <li>➤ Homelessness and housing were key issues for College learners, with increasing numbers going into voluntary care and some students sofa surfing for a couple of years but attending College and maintaining good relationships.</li> </ul> <p>ii The Chair thanked the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for their report and all their hard work, saying the Corporation was very proud of them. PH mentioned that they had been recognised across the College the previous year, winning an Inspiring Award and members agreed that this was well deserved.</p> <p>iii <b>Corporation Report:</b> A report was received from the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, highlighting issues around student homelessness, information sharing by schools, and increasing numbers of complex safeguarding referrals.</p>	Report Item 3
<b>MATTERS TO NOTE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>		
7	<p><b>PUBLICATION OF PAPERS</b></p> <p>i <b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>(i) All papers except for the 10 May 2019 minutes to be withheld from publication until the Corporation meeting on 13 December 2019.</p>	
8	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>i It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm this in due course.</p>	

## Items of Report for Corporation

#	Details	Minute
1.	The Committee considers that the Safeguarding Annual Report 2018-19 gives a good account of the challenges the College confronted in 2018-19 and how it responded. It recommends to the Corporation that it be approved.	3 xi
2.	The Enrolment Scrutiny Panel Process approved by the Corporation earlier this year is having a positive impact and involved partner agencies consider it a highly effective process. The outcomes for those deemed too high risk for admission and turned away (in terms of arrests and imprisonment for serious offences) illustrates the extent to which the new process has made the College safer, as well as the impact of the Safeguarding Committee's intervention.	4 iii
3.	A report was received from the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, highlighting issues around student homelessness, information sharing by schools, and increasing numbers of complex safeguarding referrals.	6 iii