

Kirklees College Corporation

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at 11.00 on 10 May 2021 by Microsoft Teams videoconference

Present:	Mrs C George Mr G Hetherington Ms M Gilluley Mr J Royle Mr J Williams	Member (Chair) Member Member (Executive) Member Members
Attendance:	5/5 = 100%	KPI 80% Quorum: 3
In attendance:	Ms J Green Ms J Arechiga Mr R Hillas Mr N Shaw Mr P Singh	Clerk to the Corporation Vice Principal Curriculum Deputy DSL (Dewsbury) Deputy DSL (Huddersfield) Observer

Item	Action/ Report Item
PRELIMINARY ITEMS	
0	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
i	The Chair welcomed Mr P Singh (“PS”) to the meeting, noting that PS would be observing a cycle of meetings prior to taking over as College Principal in June. Introductions were made. As Committee Members Ms M Gilluley (“MG”), Mr J Williams (“JW”) and Mr J Royle (“JR”) were all attending their last Safeguarding Committee meeting, the Chair thanked them for their valuable contributions over the years.
ii	The Clerk confirmed that due notice of the meeting had been given, the requirement for all persons participating to be able to communicate with one another was satisfied and the meeting was quorate. The Chair declared the meeting open.
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
i	Apologies were received from Ms P Harrow, Assistant Principal Student Experience.
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.
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING
i	Action: To correct the attendance figure in the minutes of 8 March 2021.
ii	<u>RESOLVED:</u> (i) Subject to an amendment (as minuted), to approve the minutes of 8 March 2021 as an accurate record. <u>Matters arising not on the Agenda</u>
iii	A Member referred to a discussion about the potential for an escalation of violent incidents as the lockdown restrictions were lifted. The Member asked for an update.

Item	Action/ Report Item
iv v vi vii	<p>MG said there had not been a significant increase in violent behaviour, however the information received from the police continued to predict an escalation in incidents. Vice Principal Curriculum Ms J Arechiga (“JA”) said there had been a number of incidents short of violence where disputes initiated online had spilled into College. She said strategies were in place to both anticipate and address such relationship issues. MG said some of the younger learners seemed to be struggling with face-to-face interaction and were having to re-learn how to resolve in-person disagreements.</p> <p><u>Update on Agreed Actions</u></p> <p><u>Amend previous minutes:</u> This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>Share College’s key points submitted to the consultation on proposed changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education:</u> This had been actioned.</p> <p><u>To share links to online safeguarding and Prevent training:</u> This had been delayed, following cancellation of the in-person training; it would be actioned promptly. The Safeguarding Link Governor would have additional training.</p> <p>Action (rolled over): To circulate links to online safeguarding and Prevent training.</p>
STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE	
3.0 i	<p>DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD REPORT</p> <p>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Mr R Hillas (“RH”) and Mr N Shaw (“NS”) presented the report and Members noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The trends reported previously continued. At the reporting date (27 April) there had been 549 safeguarding cases in 2020/21, compared to 570 in the whole of 2019/20. A case breakdown was provided in Appendix 1. With over nine weeks left until the end of term and as students returned to College often with poor mental health, demand for the service was expected to rise still further. ➤ The increase in 19+ learner referrals reported at the previous meeting had been sustained: a 45% increase on the previous year. ➤ Mental health issues continued to dominate, with a concerning high number of reported suicide attempts. A number of learners and staff were reporting high levels of anxiety around the return to college. The second highest category in terms of incidences was foreign travel (unauthorised absence). ➤ The lockdown period had seen a significant decrease in statutory referrals, both police and child social care. ➤ Reports of sexual harassment had increased - from two instances in 2019/20 to thirteen so far this year. This coincided with a marked rise in the accessing of pornography via College devices. Additional interventions, including healthy relationship and consent training for tutors and progress coaches, were being implemented. ➤ A particular concern involving the sexual harassment of minors by a local shopkeeper had been reported to police and addressed via the Dewsbury Town disruption team. ➤ Training on County Lines¹ had attracted positive feedback from progress coaches. The sessions were also a chance for the teams to reconnect, as there was less direct contact between them following a change of line management. ➤ Mandatory safeguarding training targets were being hit across the business.

¹ County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or other vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

Item		Action/ Report Item
ii	Corporation report: Governors will not be surprised to hear that the pandemic continues to dominate the safeguarding agenda. A substantial rise in referrals, in particular for mental health support, has put pressure on our already overstretched service. The sharp increase in suicide attempts and suicidal ideation among our learners is deeply concerning but the College has responded well, with sign-up to the Association of Colleges Mental Health Charter, the appointment of a Health & Wellbeing Link Governor, substantial investment in staff training, close partnership working with external agencies, and the development and promotion of health and wellbeing services and resources for both students and staff. An increased demand for mental health and wellbeing services has been seen across the sector.	Report Item 1
MONITORING		
4.0 POLICY AND PROCEDURE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE		
i	The Clerk shared the schedule, which showed that there were still elements of the policy framework requiring review and updating to ensure full compliance with legislation and statutory guidance. She said, having looked through the out-of-date documents, she considered the likelihood of an outdated policy or procedure leading to a high impact breach extremely low. Nonetheless, the Senior Leadership Team would be attending to the backlog and an action would be added to the action plan section of the Strategic Risk Register in the meantime.	
ii	Corporation report: The Committee reviewed the policy and procedure schedule, which shows the completeness of the College's safeguarding policy framework. There are no gaps currently but some secondary policy and procedure documents (secondary to the main Safeguarding Policy and staff guidance) require re-approval, potentially there may be a need for some amendments. The Committee has no concerns about this, as the risk of any material impact is considered very low – but it will continue to monitor the position.	Report Item 2
5.0 ESAFES ALERTS		
i	There had been 321 student eSafe ² alerts since the start of the year; an 8.8% increase on 2019/20 (26 more alerts) - but fewer than in 2018/19, likely as a result of many learners using their own devices. A breakdown by category was provided. A high number of Internet searches related to mental health and there was a notable increase in learners seeking to access indecent images or pornography.	
ii	A Member asked how the College responded where learners sought to or actually accessed pornography or other inappropriate content using College devices. NS said, as a minimum, they were spoken to and reminded of the IT Code of Conduct. The degree of intervention and any penalty would depend on the circumstances, including whether it was an isolated incident. Members emphasised the importance of adequate follow up for such incidents, which could potentially lead to other issues.	
iii	Corporation report: The prevalence of learners using their own devices continues to undermine the effectiveness of the eSafe monitoring system as a safeguarding tool, as well as allowing learners to access sites on their home networks that would be blocked to learners on campus. The reach of eSafe monitoring appears to have increased following the distribution of hundreds of additional College devices; alerts are up by 8.8%. In line with other indicators, eSafe data shows an increase in mental health concerns. Attempts to access inappropriate content, in particular pornography, have also substantially increased.	Report Item 3

² eSafe monitors user behaviour in the digital environment and provides reports on incidents that are certified as 'genuine', rather than false positives, by a team of behaviour analysts.

Item		Action/ Report Item
6.0	PREVENT REFERRALS	
i	<p>NS reminded Members that the purpose of Prevent was to prevent people from being drawn into terrorist activity. Where the College considered someone vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, a Prevent referral was made and the case was then assessed for suitability for discussion at the Kirklees 'Channel' panel.</p> <p>There had been seventeen Prevent related referrals so far in the academic year, including five eSafe alerts which were confirmed to be Internet searches relating to coursework. Of the other twelve, three related to radicalisation and nine to extremism. One, concerning racist and anti-Semitic language directed at another student, had been referred to the Prevent Hub.</p>	
ii	<p>The two cases that were previously open to Channel had now been closed after work was completed with the appropriate intervention providers.</p>	
iii	<p>Corporation Report: There have been seventeen Prevent referrals so far this year, compared to 14 in 2019/20. The Committee discussed some of the cases and was satisfied that the processes for detecting and addressing concerns are robust.</p>	Report Item 4
7.0	LESSONS LEARNED	
i	<p>The Committee noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safeguarding clinics, held termly, were proving successful and were an opportunity for the Team to assess and address progress coach training needs, which varied greatly between individuals. ➤ The new police officer attached to the College had settled well and was already making a valuable contribution. 	
GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION		
8.0	COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT	
i	<p>The Clerk shared the Committee self-assessment questions and these were discussed. In particular, it was noted that the Committee would soon lose three of its Members, with the departures of MG, JR and JW. There was agreement that a communication should be sent to all Governors, alerting them to the vacancies and seeking volunteers to fill the two Independent Governor slots.</p>	
ii	<p>Action: To write up the results of the self-assessment survey and discussion.</p>	JG
iii	<p>Action: To promote the upcoming vacancies on the Committee.</p>	JG
9.0	COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK SCHEDULE	
i	<p>It was agreed that no changes should be proposed to the Terms of Reference.</p>	
ii	<p>The draft work schedule for 2021/22 was discussed. There was agreement that some adjustments should be made to the proposed dates; the first meeting should be held earlier in the year, and the last later.</p>	
iii	<p>Action: To find alternative dates for the 2021/22 meetings.</p>	JG
iv	<p>Corporation report: The Committee proposes no changes to its Terms of Reference. It has discussed a schedule of meetings and business for 2021/22 and will recommend it for approval as part of the overall Corporation 2021/22 calendar and business schedules.</p>	Report Item 5

Item	Action/ Report Item
9.0 i	PUBLICATION OF PAPERS <u>RESOLVED:</u> (i) All papers, except for the previous meeting’s minutes and the governance items to be withheld from publication.

Items of Report for Corporation

#	Details	Minute
1.	Governors will not be surprised to hear that the pandemic continues to dominate the safeguarding agenda. A substantial rise in referrals, in particular for mental health support, puts pressure on our already overstretched service. The sharp increase in suicide attempts and suicidal ideation among our learners is deeply concerning but the College has responded well, with sign-up to the Association of Colleges Mental Health Charter, the appointment of a Health & Wellbeing Link Governor, substantial investment in staff training, close partnership working with external agencies, and the development and promotion of health and wellbeing services and resources for both students and staff. An increased demand for mental health and wellbeing services has been seen across the sector.	3ii
2.	The Committee reviewed the policy and procedure schedule, which shows the completeness of the College’s safeguarding policy framework. There are no gaps currently but some secondary policy and procedure documents (secondary to the main Safeguarding Policy and staff guidance) require re-approval, potentially there may be a need for some amendments. The Committee has no concerns about this, as the risk of any material impact is considered very low – but it will continue to monitor the position.	4ii
3.	The prevalence of learners using their own devices continues to undermine the effectiveness of the eSafe monitoring system as a safeguarding tool, as well as allowing learners to access sites on their home networks that would be blocked to learners on campus. The reach of eSafe monitoring appears to have increased following the distribution of hundreds of additional College devices; alerts are up by 8.8%. In line with other indicators, eSafe data shows an increase in mental health concerns. Attempts to access inappropriate content, in particular pornography, have also substantially increased.	5iii
4.	There have been seventeen Prevent referrals so far this year, compared to 14 in 2019/20. The Committee discussed some of the cases and was satisfied that the processes for detecting and addressing concerns are robust.	6iii
5.	The Committee proposes no changes to its Terms of Reference. It has discussed a schedule of meetings and business for 2021/22 and will recommend it for approval as part of the overall Corporation 2021/22 calendar and business schedules.	9iv