Annex to Callywith College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

January 2021

Response to COVID-19

There have been further significant changes within our setting and within the UK in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Almost all students are now at home and staffing is likely to be affected through illness.

This annex sets out some of the adjustments Callywith College is making in line with the changed arrangements in the college and following advice from government and local agencies.

The current position is that, following the Government announcement on Monday 4th January, the college is closed and teaching is being delivered remotely.

Despite the changes, the College's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: the welfare of children and young people always comes first, staff should respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and referrals should continue to be made in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

The pressures on children, young people and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures for a variety of reasons including through having to stay within the household, through financial hardship or health anxiety. These areas should be considered in terms of setting any work for students to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning and ability to access online resources). Staff may be aware of the mental health of both students and their parents or carers and should refer to safeguarding about any emerging concerns.

We have undertaken a scoping exercise to identify the most vulnerable students and individual arrangements have been made with students who have an attached social worker and those with an EHCP.

For students subject to a Child Protection Plan and Child In Need Plan, and who have an allocated social worker: contact will be made by the safeguarding team on a weekly basis with these students in agreement with the family and social worker.

For students who are Looked after Children and recent Care Leavers: email contact has been made by the Designated Teacher with the students to check that they are able to access their emails and online learning regularly and to offer support with equipment. Personal arrangements can be agreed with students, their carers (if appropriate) and their social worker by request.

For students with an EHCP: SENDCo and Learning Support Assistants will maintain regular contact as agreed with student, tutors and parents / carers. Support is delivered through individual arrangements based on curriculum activity.

For students on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker or identified as high risk: contact will be made by the student services team once per week for a welfare check.

NB Contact will be made remotely through telephone calls/Microsoft Teams or other appropriate methods.

Reporting arrangements:

The college arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Jen Brown - 01208 224146 – jennyb@callywith.ac.uk

The Deputy Safeguarding Lead is:

Jamie Crowle - 01208 224126 - jamiecrowle@callywith.ac.uk

The Safeguarding Officers are:

Jon Grey - 01208 224112 - jonathang@callywith.ac.uk

Allyn Jefferies - 01208 224188- allynj@callywith.ac.uk

Tracey White - 01208 224134 - traceywhite@callywith.ac.uk

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Moira Bawden - 01208 224168 - moirab@callywith.ac.uk

Kerrie Bramhall- 01208 224060 – kerriebramhall@callywith.ac.uk

We will be operating during normal business hours, 8.30am – 5pm (Mon – Thurs) and 8.30am – 4.30pm (Friday).

Any safeguarding concerns out of hours should be reported to the police or the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) on 0300 1231116 or 1208 251300.

We have confirmed the arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged: via Personnel Officer or DSL at Callywith College.

Staff will continue to follow the safeguarding procedures and advise the safeguarding leads immediately about concerns they have about any young person, whether in college or not. COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Please continue to log comments on Student Tracking as you normally would. If you have confidential comments please alert your PTL or a member of the Safeguarding Team, who will respond to the concern and log it on our confidential database.

Weekly meetings of the safeguarding team will continue.

Normal safeguarding procedures apply for referrals to children's services. This contact will go through the DSL or DDSL who will follow appropriate measures in seeking the appropriate and necessary support.

Should a child or young person be at risk of significant harm and local agencies are not able to respond, the college will immediately follow the safeguarding children partnership escalation procedure.

Safeguarding information will be passed to the Designated Governor for Safeguarding who will report to the Chair`s Standing Committee at this time.

Allegations or concerns about staff

With such different arrangements in place, young people could be at greater risk of online abuse. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the safeguarding team.

In the event that there are agency staff or volunteers working with students during college closure they will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take action if they are concerned.

New staff or volunteers

All new starters must have an online induction. This will be administered by the Personnel Team and the Line Manager. All new starters or volunteers need to confirm that they have completed the induction process which includes online safeguarding training.

Peer on peer abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to go on between young people, especially in the context of a college closure or partial closure. Our staff will remain vigilant to the signs of peer-on-peer abuse, including those between young people who are not currently attending our provision. Extra care should be taken where groups have mixed age and developmental stages. When making contact with these families our staff may ask about relationships between learners.

Risk online

Young people will be using the internet more during this period. The College is using online approaches to deliver training or support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when students are learning at the College. The College continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place. The College has taken on board the guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the Safer Recruitment Consortium.

It is extremely important that professional boundaries do not slip during this exceptional period and protocols for online working have been issued to staff and students as part of the IT policies/ procedures:

https://intranet.truro-penwith.ac.uk/?pageID=1275

- ☐ IT Policies
  - o Terms and Conditions
  - o Use of Computers Policy

Staff can access further guidance here:

https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-10-safeguarding-rules-teachers-home

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely/

Students accessing remote learning will receive guidance on keeping safe online and know how to raise concerns with the college, Childline, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/internet-connected-devices/

Mental Health

Restrictions to movement and contact with other people means learners are more likely to be at risk of mental health problems. The College has published support materials on the website and on social media. This directs learners and their families to further support available. The Department for Education have produced guidance to support parents:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak

The Student Services Team are available to support students experiencing any personal issues including mental health, sexual health, finance, housing etc. Please contact via 01208 224460 - studentservices@callywith.ac.uk.

Furthermore, all our college support groups have now gone online and meetings will take place remotely, alongside our counselling service, which will also offer remote meetings following BACP standards.

The following organisations can also provide support:

www.kooth.com – Free online emotional wellbeing and counselling with self-help articles

https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing

https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/

Calm Harm App – A phone app providing help for those who use self-harm as a coping strategy: https://calmharm.co.uk/

Clear Fear App - A phone app providing help for those who are experiencing issues with anxiety www.clearfear.co.uk

Get Self Help - A website with a range of self-help CBT resources https://www.getselfhelp.co.uk

Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Refuge) - 0808 200 0247 - www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Savvy Kernow - Information, Advice and Guidance for young people and links to young people's services in Cornwall https://www.kernowccg.nhs.uk/your-health/children-and-young-people/young-people/

Drugs & Alcohol support for you people (part of YZUP) - https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk

Relationship advice including online counselling - https://www.relate.org.uk

First Light - Domestic Abuse & Sexual Health support in Cornwall https://www.firstlight.org.uk

The Women's Centre - Rape, Sexual Abuse and domestic Abuse support in Cornwall https://www.womenscentrecornwall.org.uk

Support for Young Carers in Cornwall - https://www.kernowyoungcarers.org

Sexual Health support - https://sh24.org.uk

Woebot App – A phone app providing computer-based CBT

StayAlive (App) - Free to download on Apple/Android

https://www.youngpeoplecornwall.org/what-we-do/ - Free online support with online chat 9 – 9 daily

Valued Lives (Crisis Community Café) 01209 901438 – (7 days a week 5pm-midnight) for face to face and telephone support if you are in a crisis.

SANE - (6pm – 11pm) 0845 767 8000

Papyrus - For young adults 0800 068 4141

Childline – 0800 1111

SHOUT Text Crisis Support - If you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258. If at any time you wish to end the conversation, you can text STOP and you won't receive any further texts.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will receive information about keeping students safe online with peers, the College, other education offers they may access and the wider internet community. We have set out the College's approach, including the sites students will be asked to access and set out who from the college (if anyone) their student is going to be interacting with online. Parents have been offered the following links:

Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/staysafestayhome-tech-advice-and-resources-to-support-families-at-home/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwmpb0BRCBARIsAG7y4zay2czlMnXT24qVywrth0GyQzZMDeMONBl5Gol-h7TyOPrqEwhx5M8aAttREALw_wcB#latest

Net-aware - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/

Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm

Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

Free additional support for staff in responding to online safety issues can be accessed from the Professionals Online Safety Helpline at the UK Safer Internet Centre.

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Parents can contact our eLearning and IT supports teams on 01872 308300 with questions or advice regarding technical aspects of the above