

HUGH BAIRD COLLEGE

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The College recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2004 and Section 175 of the Education Act 2002. The overall intention and purpose behind the College safeguarding policy is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Children Act 1989:

The aim of this Policy is to establish a 'whole college' approach to Child Safeguarding, in order to:

- provide a safe learning environment;
- identify children who are suffering or suspected to be suffering significant harm, and ensure appropriate action to preserve their safety both at home and at College;
- enabling all students to achieve the 5 Every Child Matter outcomes.

This policy has been written in consultation with Sefton Social Services and with reference to the following documents:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children 2006;
- Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings March 2009
- Department of Health, 'Safeguarding Children in Education', DFES September 2004;
- Every Child Matters 2003;
- NSPCC Child Safeguarding Awareness Resources, Feb 2005;
- Sefton Area Child Safeguarding Guidelines;
- What to do if you're worried a Child is being Abused (Department of Health 2003).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the College's Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Guidelines.

2. Definition of terms:

2.1 For the purpose of this policy and guidelines the term child or children means, any child or young person who has not yet reached their 18th birthday and is inclusive of those students under the age of 18, as defined in the Children's (NI) Order 1995. The fact that a child has become sixteen years of age, is living independently or is in Further Education, or is a member of the armed forces, or is in hospital, or in prison or a young offenders institution, does not change their status or their entitlement to services or Safeguarding under the Children Act 1989.

3. What is Abuse and Neglect?

3.1 Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting;

by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

- **Physical abuse**

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

- **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as over Safeguarding and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

- **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

- **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 The College has a responsibility for the operation of this policy to ensure the safety of children attending or visiting Hugh Baird College to safeguard and promote their welfare and to take appropriate decisions about how this can be achieved. It is the College's responsibility to report alleged or

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suspected abuse and to notify the appropriate agencies so that they can investigate and take appropriate action.

The Director of Corporate Services has overall responsibility for child Safeguarding within the college.

5. Training

5.1 Information will be provided, as appropriate, to all members of staff to ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Safeguarding and e-safety training will be offered to all staff, and sub contactors located in the College, and be extended to parents and placement providers for all students under the age of 18 years. All staff will be receive Local Safeguarding Children's Board Level 1 Training in Safeguarding every 3 years. Local Safeguarding Children's Board Level 2 Training in Safeguarding training will be provided for members of staff who hold child Safeguarding responsibilities every 2 years.

6. Review and Monitoring of the Procedures

6.1 It will be the responsibility of the Director of Corporate Services to review and monitor the policy each year.

6.2 It will be the responsibility of the College Child Safeguarding Officers to review and monitor the procedures and to seek the advice of the local authority's social service department annually.

Sue Lowe
Director of Corporate Services
9th September 2009

HUGH BAIRD COLLEGE
VULNERABLE ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The College recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect Vulnerable Adults from abuse. The overall intention and purpose behind the College safeguarding policy is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The aim of this Policy is to establish a 'whole college' approach to Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding, in order to:

- provide a safe learning environment;
- identify Vulnerable Adults who are suffering or suspected to be suffering significant harm, and ensure appropriate action to preserve their safety both at home and at College.

This policy has been written in consultation with Sefton Social Services and with reference to the following documents:

- Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- Sefton Vulnerable Adult Procedures and Guidelines 2004.

2. Definition of terms:

2.1 The term "Vulnerable Adult" refers to any adult aged 18 years and over who are or may be, in need of community care services because of learning disability/difficulty or other disability, age or illness, and who are, or who may be, unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

Significant harm refers to: "Ill-treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment that are not physical); the impairment of, or an avoidable deterioration in, physical or mental health; and the impairment of physical, emotional, social or behavioural development." Law Commission (1995).

Vulnerability can apply to a wide range of disabilities and situations, including those adults at risk owing to their caring role or family responsibilities.

3. What is Abuse?

3.1 It can involve any one or more of the following:

- Physical Abuse: any form of physical injury to a vulnerable adult aged 18 plus, including avoidable poisoning, where there is definite knowledge or a reasonable suspicion that injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented by any person having actual custody of the vulnerable adult. It is important to understand that the seriousness of the injury is an unreliable index of the risk to the vulnerable adult, and diagnosis of abuse will normally be both medical and psycho-social.
- Neglect and failure to thrive: persistent or severe neglect of a vulnerable adult (for example, by exposure to danger – including cold

and starvation), which results (or may result) in the serious impairment of the vulnerable adult's health and development. Again, diagnosis will normally be both medical and psycho-social.

- Emotional Abuse: behaviour that seriously undermines the development of a vulnerable adult's competence. This may include:
 - persistent hostility
 - persistent failure to respond
 - seriously unrealistic expectations (these may be over or under estimations)
 - grossly inappropriate stimulations of a vulnerable adult's aggression or sexuality
 - serious exploitation of a vulnerable adult for the gratification of another's needs; or
 - grossly inconsistent care.
- Sexual Abuse: the involvement of vulnerable adults in sexual activities they may not truly understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent, which violate the social taboos of family life.

4. Responsibilities:

1.4 All staff working in the College are responsible for the operation of this policy to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults attending or visiting Hugh Baird College to safeguard and promote their welfare and to take appropriate decisions about how this can be achieved. It is the College's responsibility to report alleged or suspected abuse and to notify the appropriate agencies so that they can investigate and take appropriate action.

The Director of Corporate Services has overall responsibility for vulnerable adult Safeguarding within the college.

5. Training:

5.1 Information will be provided, as appropriate, to all members of staff to ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Safeguarding and e-safety training will be offered to all staff, and sub contactors located in the College, and be extended to parents and placement providers for all vulnerable adults under the age of 25 years. All staff will be receive Local Safeguarding Children's Board Level 1 Training in Safeguarding every 3 years. Local Safeguarding Children's Board Level 2 Training in Safeguarding training will be provided for members of staff who hold child Safeguarding responsibilities every 2 years.

6. Review and Monitoring of the Procedures:

6.1 It will be the responsibility of the Director of Corporate Services to review and monitor the policy each year.

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6.2 It will be the responsibility of the College Safeguarding Officers to review and monitor the procedures and to seek the advice of the local authority's social service department annually.

Sue Lowe
Director of Corporate Services
9th September 2009