

## COVID-19 interim changes to Safeguarding Policy

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Response to COVID-19

There have been some significant changes at City College in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. All students and staff are now engaging in remote working with limited exceptions.

Despite the changes, City College's safeguarding policy is fundamentally the same: children and young people's safety and well-being remains our priority and staff must respond robustly to safeguarding concerns and report these in line with our established safeguarding procedure.

This annex sets out the adjustments we are making in line with advice from Department of Education as outlined in the DfE document: *Coronavirus (COVID-19): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers dated 27 March 2020*

#### 1.2 The current College position and local advice

We have followed guidance from government on how to support Vulnerable and EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) students during this time and will remain open for a small number of students for who it is deemed necessary.

#### 1.3. Reporting arrangements

The College arrangements continue in line with our safeguarding policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Lorraine Wheeler and Deputy DSL Kate Miles are working remotely and accessible for referrals.

Telephone: 0790 0684 493 or Email: [safeguarding@southampton-city.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@southampton-city.ac.uk) within the College working hours of 8.30-5pm Monday-Thursday and 8.30-4.30 pm on Friday.

### 2. Supporting students

#### 2.1 Supporting EHCP and Vulnerable Students

We have undertaken an exercise to identify the most vulnerable students. All EHCP students, Looked After Children and those with social workers were contacted as closure began and a discussion was had as to whether they should continue to attend college. These students are contacted every two weeks to ensure that they are safe and making progress in their learning.

In addition, the Student Advisers have identified any students who have been deemed as vulnerable as a result a recent safeguarding/welfare referral - these students are being contacted weekly and have been offered the opportunity to access the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) during the lockdown period.

Other students may be added to the vulnerable list in response to concerns raised with the safeguarding team.

#### 2.2. Supporting Students to continue their engagement in learning

Student engagement is now being monitored remotely. Attendance and Engagement offices are following up on non-engagement and working closely with teachers to support students.

### **2.3 Supporting students to stay safe online**

The peer on peer response remains unchanged as outlined in City College Safeguarding Policy and within the Acceptable Use of IT procedure.

Further links and resources on how students can keep themselves safe online are being added, to City Bit. Link to: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) is highlighted as a useful guide for students, parents/guardians and teachers.

### **3. Status of this Annex**

The operation of this Annex will be kept under review by the Head of Student Support and DSL.

- Date approved by SMT: May 2020
- Date approved by Board of Governors: 8 June 2020