

Addendum to Safeguarding Policy – COVID-19 Arrangements

Introduction

There have been significant changes within our setting and within the UK in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

This addendum to the Eastern School of Performing Arts Safeguarding policy contains details of our safeguarding arrangements during this time.

Eastern School of Performing Arts is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its students. The pressures on children, young people and their families currently are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures for a variety of reasons including having to stay within the household and through financial hardship or health anxiety. We recognise that college is a protective factor for our students and that current circumstances can affect the mental health of our students and their parents/carers.

SCOPE

Vulnerable Students

Vulnerable students include those who have a Social Worker and those students up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

Those who have a Social Worker include students who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A student may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need, or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children's Act 1989.

ESPA will continue to communicate with New College Stamford and work with and support Social Workers to help protect vulnerable students and adults. This includes working with the Local Authority Virtual College Head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after students. The lead person for this is Lauren Barker, Deputy Safeguarding Officer and Phil Smith, Student Services Manager. The Lead DSL at ESPA is Kelly-Ann Gordon.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the young person contracting COVID-19, the college Student Services Manager, Phil Smith or ESPA DSL Kelly-Ann Gordon or the Social Worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

The college has identified 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 and more frequently, if required.

For students who are Looked after Children and recent Care Leavers - contact will be overseen by the Deputy Safeguarding Officer, Lauren Barker and Phil Smith, Student Services Manager, who will call daily, weekly or twice weekly as agreed with the student, carer and Social Worker. All those with an Electronic Personal Education Plan (EPEP) will continue as scheduled with the Local Authority via remote access.

For students with an EHCP - Additional Learning Support staff and Student Advisors will maintain regular contact as agreed with student and parents/carers. Support can be delivered through individual arrangements based on curriculum activity. Annual reviews of EHCPs will be carried out remotely in line with statutory requirements in accordance with the relevant Local Authority.

Contact will be made remotely through telephone calls/email, Google Classrooms or other appropriate methods.

To support the above, the college will, when communicating with parents/carers, confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Key contacts

Safeguarding main contact	07810 161010	Safeguarding@stamford.ac.uk
---------------------------	--------------	--

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Role	Name	C o n t a c t number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sarah Young	07837 996519	Sarah.young@stamford.ac.uk
ESPA DSL	Kelly-Ann Gordon	01780 767696	kgordon@easternschool.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (main)	Lauren Barker	07810 161010	Lauren.barker@stamford.ac.uk
Student Services Manager and Safeguarding Officer	Phil Smith	07825 392707	Phil.smith@stamford.ac.uk
Safeguarding Officer (Inclusive Learning)	Bev Peasgood	07944 650357	Beverley.peasgood@stamford.ac.uk

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not available, in addition to the above, a senior leader will assume responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding arrangements.

It is important that all college staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy).

PROCEDURE

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a student, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Safeguarding policy including the completion of the referral form on the New College staff launchpad [click here](#). The college uses the ProMonitor recording system, which staff are able to access at home.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with students as part of the college remote working, they should report the concern according to our Safeguarding policy.

Safeguarding Training and Induction

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy), even if they miss their refresher training.

The Local Authority Education Safeguarding Team is providing advice and guidance, where needed, to colleges through a dedicated helpline.

All existing college staff have had safeguarding training and have read Part 1 of Keeping Students Safe in Education (2019). The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a student.

Safer Recruitment/Volunteers and Movement of Staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable are not allowed to enter the children's workforce or gain access to students. When recruiting new staff, New College Stamford will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Students Safe in Education (2019) (KCSIE).

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

If staff are deployed from another education or children's workforce setting to our college, the college will take into account the DfE supplementary guidance on safeguarding students during the COVID-19 pandemic and will accept portability as long as the current employer confirms in writing that:

- the individual has been subject to an enhanced DBS and children's barred list check
- there are no known concerns about the individual's suitability to work with students
- there is no ongoing disciplinary investigation relating to that individual.

Where the college is utilising volunteers, the college will continue to follow the checking and risk assessment process as set out in paragraphs 167 to 172 of KCSIE. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

The college will continue to follow the legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Full details can be found at paragraph 163 of KCSIE.

The college will continue to consider and make referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) as per paragraph 166 of KCSIE and the TRA's Teacher misconduct advice for making a referral.

During the COVID-19 period all referrals should be made by emailing Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current national emergency, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that any college is aware, on any given day, which staff/volunteers will be in the college or college, and that appropriate checks have been carried out, especially for anyone engaging in regulated activity. As such, the college will continue to keep the single central record (SCR) up to date as outlined in paragraphs 148 to 156 in KCSIE.

Students and Online Safety Away From College

It is important that all staff who interact with students, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with in accordance with the Safeguarding for All policy and where appropriate, referrals should still be made to student's social care and as required, to the police.

College closures bring lots of challenges for both college staff and parents, and both are increasingly looking to the benefits of technology to continue delivering some form of learning experience for students.

As always, there are huge benefits to be gained from the appropriate use of technology and accessing learning resources whilst at home is a great example of this. However, parents

(and teachers) need to be aware of the potential risks that go along with this. Guidance has been shared with staff around safe teaching and learning when working remotely.

The college will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.

Supporting Students Not In College

Where the Safeguarding Team have identified a student about whom there have been concerns but not currently open to social care, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in college, they will ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that student.

Details of this plan will be recorded on ProMonitor.

The College and its Safeguarding Team will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. Where the college is unable to contact a student about whom there have been concerns after a reasonable number of attempts, the DSL will seek further advice about safe and well checks.

Peer On Peer Abuse

The college recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims.

Where a college receives a report of peer on peer abuse, they will follow the principles as set out in part 5 of KCSIE and of those outlined within the Safeguarding policy.

The college will listen and work with the young person, parents/carers and any multi-agency partner required to ensure the safety and security of that young person.

Concerns and actions must be recorded on ProMonitor and appropriate referrals made.