

Greenhead College

Child Protection Policy

Aim

To protect young people from abuse and to raise the awareness of both teaching and support staff of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.

The College will address this aim by:

- Ensuring all staff are given guidance on 'recognising abuse' and are informed of the internal procedures to be followed where there is a case of suspected abuse.
- Facilitating good levels of communication between all members of staff.
- Promoting understanding and building relationships with other agencies in order to work more effectively.
- Providing a safe and supportive environment where young people feel valued.

Background:

The Children Act 1989 places the primary responsibility for the care and protection of abused children and children at risk with the Local Authority; the College has a responsibility to provide assistance to the Local Authority in the investigation of child abuse. In addition Section 175 of the 2002 Education Act places particular responsibilities on the college to promote and safeguard the welfare of students.

Types of abuse where young people may be in need of protection include:

- Physical abuse
- Neglect or failure to thrive
- Emotional abuse or psychological maltreatment
- Sexual abuse.

The College has adopted the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board's Child Protection Procedures and has designated a member of staff to co-ordinate action within the College and for liaison with other agencies. The procedures can be found online at <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/health-care/acpc/procedures/index.htm>.

In the context of the Children Act the definition of a child includes young people under the age of 18. The College will however support any of its students at risk of significant harm, irrespective of age.

The welfare of the young person is paramount. The guiding principle in the Child Protection Procedure is to take whatever action is necessary to safeguard the interests of the young person.

Because of the requirements of the Children Act, complete confidentiality in cases of alleged abuse cannot be offered to anyone under the age of 18.

If the person is over 18 and does not wish action to be taken then appropriate support or sensitive referral to other skilled help (for instance the College Counsellors) should be offered. Complete confidentiality can be offered if appropriate.

Suspicion of Abuse

Any member of staff who is concerned that a young person may be suffering from abuse must inform the designated person immediately.

The designated person is: Sue Creamer
Vice Principal Guidance
Ext 206

In her absence, staff should inform the Principal, Martin Rostron.

Approved by the Governors on 23 June 2008