**Buxton & Leek College – Safeguarding Policy Addendum, Covid 19, January 2021**

**Scope**

From 5th January 2021 parents were asked to support public health efforts by keeping their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools and colleges to remain open for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who absolutely need to attend.

Schools, colleges and childcare providers were also asked to provide on campus care for a limited number of children: children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Schools and colleges must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping children safe in education (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912592/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Sep_2020.pdf)

**This is an addendum to the**Buxton & Leek College**Safeguarding, and Child Protection policy**.

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Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority.

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  + children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services or in the process of being referred to children’s services
  + adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
* those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’)
* those living in temporary accommodation
* those who are young carers
* those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
* care leavers
* others at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Buxton & Leek College will continue to support children’s social workers to help protect vulnerable children. This includes working with and supporting children’s social workers and the Local Authority virtual school head (VSH) for looked-after and previously looked-after children. We will work with social workers to ensure that Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for Looked after Children are up to date with the current education offer that looked after children are accessing.

Buxton & Leek College will continue to provide support through teachers, support staff and the learner journey team to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and families) whilst they not attending college campuses. DSLs will support teachers and support staff to follow up with any learners who are not engaging in remote or on campus learning.

Buxton & Leek College will also support vulnerable children and young people by offering the opportunity to attend on campus during lockdown. Parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people will be offered the opportunity to take up the place on campus.

1. **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

1. **Reporting Concerns**

Where staff have a concern about a child/young person they should continue to follow the process outlined in our Safeguarding Policy.

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

1. **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

A trained member of the Safeguarding Team will be available remotely during college working hours and will also be on site when students attend the college campuses.

1. **Online Safety**

It is important that all staff who interact with children/young people, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per the Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children’s social care and as required, the police.

Buxton & Leek College will ensure any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection/GDPR requirements.