



**BUXTON & LEEK
COLLEGE**



**COVID-19 Buxton & Leek College SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION
POLICY UPDATE (TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH University of Derby MAIN
POLICY)**

**Updated 2nd April 2020, in line with DfE Covid 19 safeguarding in schools,
colleges and other providers guidance.**

Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers

SCHOOL NAME:- Buxton & Leek College

POLICY OWNER:- Buxton & Leek College

DATE OF UPDATE:- 2/04/2020

DATE SHARED WITH STAFF:-

CONTEXT

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide 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.

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

Name of school: Buxton & Leek College

Key contacts: Emma Kilbane, Katie Lawson

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Alison Loxton

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Nadia Shalan

Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor: Olivia Dean

Vulnerable children

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. A child 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 Act 1989.

Buxton & Leek College recognises that previously looked after children are a potentially vulnerable group who may not have a social worker and will consider the support and offer to this cohort of children. Some previously looked after children may still have significant emotional wellbeing needs linked to their journey into care. Education settings have a key role in supporting the stability of those children with special guardianship orders or in adoptive homes.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

Senior leaders, especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are. They have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edge of receiving children's social care support.

Buxton & Leek College will continue to work with and support children's social workers to help protect vulnerable 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.

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a Social Worker will attend an education setting, as long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at risk. University of Derby Campuses remain closed including Buxton & Leek sites. However staff from Buxton & Leek College remain in regular contact with parents/carers and Social Workers of vulnerable children to offer alternative provision if required during the current Covid-19 outbreak. Where parents/carers wish for their child to remain at home Social Workers will be informed. All students will continue to engage with their learning remotely. Where vulnerable children are failing to engage their Social Worker will be informed and alternative provision explored.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, Buxton & Leek College or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Attendance monitoring

Local Authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-today attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. The department has introduced a daily online attendance form to keep a record of children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. This allows for a record of attendance for safeguarding purposes and allows schools to provide accurate, up-to-date data to the department on the number of children taking up places

Buxton & Leek College staff and Social Workers will ensure that parents/carers of Children in Need have regular contact with staff and follow up any students not engaging remotely. Records of all contact will be kept. If it is required that any of these students need to attend an educational setting alternative provision will be explored with Social Workers.

To support the above, Buxton & Leek 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.

Buxton & Leek College will have a rota of DSL's available by phone or video online. Contact details are on the college website and are shared with staff.

A DSL will continue to engage with social workers, and attend all multi-agency meetings, which can be done remotely.

Reporting a concern

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the Buxton & Leek College Safeguarding Policy.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately and without delay. This may mean by email to the DSL to ensure the concern is captured.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in Buxton & Leek College, they should report the concern to the Principal.

Concerns around the principal should be directed to the Chair of Governors. Buxton & Leek College will continue to offer support in the process of managing allegations.

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.

All existing Buxton & Leek College staff have had safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019). The DSL should communicate with

staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child. This will include contact numbers and emails for DSL's/DDSLs' if not on site.

Where new staff are recruited they will continue to be provided with a safeguarding induction.

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 children. When recruiting new staff, Buxton & Leek College will continue to follow the relevant safer recruitment processes for their setting, including, as appropriate, relevant sections in part 3 of Keeping Children 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.

Where Buxton & Leek College are utilising volunteers, we 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.

Buxton & Leek 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.

Buxton & Leek College will also 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

Children and online safety away from College

It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as per Buxton & Leek College's Child Protection Policy and where appropriate referrals should still be made to children's social care and as required, the police. Online teaching should follow the same principles as set out in College's code of conduct.

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

Supporting children not in College

Buxton & Leek College IS committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all their Children and Young people.

Where the DSL has identified a child to be on the edge of social care support, or who would normally receive pastoral-type support in college, they should ensure that a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person.

Details of this plan (Safeguarding and vulnerable students action plan document) must be recorded as should a record of contact made.

The communication plans can include; remote contact and phone contact. Other individualised contact methods could be considered and recorded.

DSL's will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any communication plan. This plan must be reviewed regularly (at least once a fortnight) and where concerns arise, the DSL will consider any referrals as appropriate. Buxton & Leek College will share safeguarding messages on its website and social media pages.

Buxton & Leek College recognises that it is a protective factor for children and young people, and that the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of students and their parents/carers. All staff are aware of this in setting expectations of students' work where they are at home.

Buxton & Leek College will ensure that where they care for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, they ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Buxton & Leek College recognises that during the closure a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims. Where Buxton and 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 Child Protection Policy.

Concerns and actions will be recorded and appropriate referrals made.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Staffordshire

First Response - 08001313126

Duty LADO - Contact First Response, 0800 1313126

Derbyshire

Derbyshire Starting Point – 01629 533190

Derbyshire LADO - Referral Forms via E-mail to: Professional.Allegations@derbyshire.gov.uk