

QAP	3.11
ISSUE DATE	Jul 2005
AUTHOR	D Hankey
SHEET	1 of 3
FORMS	0
REVIEWED	Sep 2026
REVIEWED BY	H Young
CHECK BY	Sep 2027

SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

Appendix A: Abuse of children, young people and adults at risk

Indicators of abuse and neglect

Abuse is maltreatment of a child, young person or adult at risk. It may involve causing harm, failing to prevent harm, neglect, exploitation, discriminatory treatment, or abuse that happens online or is facilitated by technology. Staff should remember that they are not expected to investigate concerns or decide whether abuse has taken place. Their role is to notice indicators, record concerns factually on ProMonitor, and email the relevant Student Success Coach directly in line with college safeguarding procedures.

- **Physical abuse:** deliberately causing physical harm, including hitting, shaking, burning, poisoning, suffocating, fabricating illness or otherwise injuring a child or adult at risk.
- **Emotional or psychological abuse:** persistent emotional harm, intimidation, coercion, humiliation, isolation, bullying, cyberbullying, threats, controlling behaviour or withdrawal of support.
- **Sexual abuse:** forcing, coercing or enticing a child, young person or adult at risk into sexual activity, including contact and non-contact abuse, online abuse, grooming, sexual exploitation and abuse by adults or peers.
- **Neglect:** persistent failure to meet basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs, including inadequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision, protection, care or response to emotional needs.

For adults, safeguarding duties apply where the person has care and support needs, is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to protect themselves because of those care and support needs. Staff should report concerns to the Safeguarding Team.

- **Modern slavery and exploitation:** Includes slavery, servitude, forced labour, trafficking and exploitation through coercion, deception, threats or control, including criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and county lines.
- **Discriminatory abuse** includes harassment, slurs or similar treatment because of a person's protected characteristics, including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
- **Neglect and acts of omission** include ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs; failing to provide access to appropriate health, care, support or education services; and withholding the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self-neglect:** Includes neglect of personal hygiene, health or surroundings, including hoarding. Safeguarding action depends on the adult's care and support needs and ability to protect themselves.
- **Domestic abuse:** Abusive behaviour between personally connected people aged 16 or over, including physical, sexual, violent, threatening, controlling, coercive, economic, psychological or emotional abuse. Children who see, hear or experience domestic abuse are victims in their own right.
- **Financial abuse:** Misuse, theft or control of money, property or possessions. Indicators may include unpaid bills, unexplained shortages or withdrawals, missing financial documents, changes to authorised signers, or sudden changes to wills or financial arrangements.
- **Coercive or controlling behaviour:** Repeated or continuous behaviour that seriously affects a victim and is used to control, isolate, frighten, humiliate or restrict independence. It can apply to personally connected people and is not limited to those living together.

QAP	3.11
ISSUE DATE	Jul 2005
AUTHOR	D Hankey
SHEET	2 of 3
FORMS	0
REVIEWED	Sep 2026
REVIEWED BY	H Young
CHECK BY	Sep 2027

Child-on-child abuse

Children can abuse other children. This is often referred to as child-on-child abuse and can happen inside or outside college, face to face or online. All staff have a role in preventing child-on-child abuse, challenging inappropriate behaviour and reporting concerns where they believe a child may be at risk.

The college has an **anonymous reporting system** to encourage its students to report concerns regarding child-on-child abuse if they feel unable to talk to the safeguarding team.

Staff must challenge inappropriate behaviour and must not dismiss abuse as “banter,” “part of growing up” or “boys being boys.” Child-on-child abuse may include:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’)
- physical abuse, including online threats or encouragement
- sexual violence, sexual harassment or causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, including digitally generated or altered images, image-based abuse and upskirting
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation)

Sexual violence and harassment

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between children and young people of any age and sex; through a group sexually assaulting or sexually harassing an individual or another group; and online or face to face, both physically and verbally.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap. Victims are likely to find the experience stressful and distressing, and it may adversely affect their education, attendance, wellbeing and attainment. The impact may be exacerbated where the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators attend the same college.

Staff must take all reports seriously, reassure victims they will be supported and kept safe, and respond to online, off-site and on-site incidents consistently. Staff should be alert to increased risk for girls, students with SEND and LGBTQ+ students.

Staff should challenge inappropriate or potentially criminal behaviour and make clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable, tolerated or inevitable.

Online safety and technology-facilitated abuse

Online safety and technology-facilitated abuse includes online grooming, cyberbullying, coercion, harassment, image-based abuse, nude or semi-nude image sharing, harmful content, cybercrime and digitally generated or manipulated images, including deepfakes.

Child criminal exploitation, county lines and serious violence

Child criminal exploitation and county lines: Exploitation of a child or young person into criminal activity through coercion, control, manipulation, deception, threats, violence, debt bondage, grooming or promises of money, status or protection.

QAP	3.11
ISSUE DATE	Jul 2005
AUTHOR	D Hankey
SHEET	3 of 3
FORMS	0
REVIEWED	Sep 2026
REVIEWED BY	H Young
CHECK BY	Sep 2027

Serious violence: Indicators may include absence, changed friendships, isolation, declining performance, unexplained gifts, injuries, assaults, weapons, gangs, drugs or exploitation concerns.

Abuse linked to honour-based violence or abuse

Includes abuse or crimes used to punish, control or prevent behaviour perceived to bring shame or dishonour. It may include forced marriage, FGM, breast ironing and wider family or community pressure, often with multiple perpetrators.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

FGM mandatory reporting: Teachers and regulated health or social care professionals must personally report to police where, in their professional duties, they discover FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Staff must not examine students and should inform the DSL unless there is good reason not to.

Forced marriage

Forced marriage is a crime. It occurs where one or both parties do not give full and free consent and violence, threats or coercion are used. Staff must speak to the student privately where safe to do so and report concerns to the Safeguarding Team.