



Ruskin College Oxford

Name of policy:	Policy on Prevent Duty and Safeguarding Adults at Risk
Created:	2010
Approved by Governing Executive:	February 2011
Last reviewed:	February 2019
Responsibility for review:	Health and Safety Committee & Governing Executive
Date of next review:	February 2020
Related policies:	Safeguarding Children policy; Grievance Procedure; Grievance Procedure for Senior Post Holders; Guidance re. Grievances against Senior Postholders

Policy on Prevent Duty and Safeguarding Adults at Risk

1. Purpose

Ruskin College is committed to safeguarding all learners who attend our courses. The purpose of this policy is to develop good practice for all learners about whom we may have particular concerns regarding their health, safety or welfare. The policy applies to all learners who may be at risk, regardless of age, class, ethnicity, gender, marital status, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment. ⁱ

2. Definition of an adult at risk

For the purpose of this policy, we will adopt a definition of adults at risk that is wider than most policies on protecting vulnerable adults. We will take into account any past or present, personal or social issues that may make a Ruskin student more open to harm, self-harm, abuse or exploitation.

The broad definition of a 'vulnerable adult' referred to in the 1997 Consultation Paper *Who decides?**, issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department, is a person: "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation"

3. Definition of abuse

This policy is designed to cover situations where an adult may be at risk. This can include situations of self-neglect or self-harm or where a learner discloses abuse or abuse is suspected. For the purpose of this policy, we will adopt the following definition of abuse:

'Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded into financial or sexual transactions to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subject to it.'*(Department of Health 2000 No Secrets)*

4. The Prevent Duty & Safeguarding

Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The College, in line with the Prevent Duty Guidance for Further Education institutions in England & Wales has a duty to safeguard its students keeping them both safe and within the law.

The Prevent Duty is not about preventing students from having political or religious views and concerns, but about supporting them to address these concerns or act on them in non-extremist ways. Prevent is about preventing vulnerable individuals from being exploited by extremist beliefs.

The Prevent Duty is an extension of the same safeguarding process which the education sector already employs in order to effectively safeguard vulnerable adults from exploitation, abuse, drug use or alcoholism.

If you believe that someone is vulnerable to being exploited or involved in violent extremism, please use the established safeguarding duty or care procedures at college and escalate your concerns to the Safeguarding Officer, Student Services Manager, Vinisha Patel. The Safeguarding Officer will make a referral through the Channel Co-ordinator and the local authority. Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into extremist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.ⁱⁱ

5. Adult Safeguarding Procedures Staff are Expected to Follow

If you see or hear something or if you are given information that causes you concern about a learner's health, safety, welfare, or behaviour you should not ignore it.

What you should do:

- Keep calm
- If this is clearly a medical emergency or a situation of immediate danger, call the relevant emergency service(s) straight away. You do not need anyone's permission to do this. Otherwise, ask the learner whether they feel that they are, or that anyone else is, at immediate risk
- Ensure that the learner's basic needs are met, enlisting others to help if necessary and if you need to stay with the learner
- Listen to anything the learner may want to tell you
- Take notes of what is said and what you observe, at the time or immediately after
- Pass the information on to the Vice-Principal, as the designated Safeguarding Officer, that is the member of staff with lead responsibility for issues concerning adults at risk, at the earliest opportunity.
- Tell the learner that you are doing this and that their views and wishes will be taken into account.

What you should not do:

- don't ignore the situation or hope it will go away
- where there is suspected abuse, don't ask any further questions other than concerning immediate risk, or get into any discussion, as this may prejudice a later court case
- never promise complete confidentiality to the learner as you will need to pass on your concerns.

6. Responsibilities

All those working with learners at or for Ruskin College have a duty to comply with this policy. This includes all employees, casual workers, volunteers, contractors and their sub-contractors. It may be distressing at the time and somebody will check with you later about any support you yourself may need. One member of staff will be designated to take lead responsibility for issues concerning adults at risk. Except in an emergency, all concerns should be communicated to via the Student Services Manager so that they can decide what action, if any, to take. Student Services Manager designated member of staff, should make themselves aware of any 'multi-agency' procedures operating locally and involve relevant health care, police or social work professionals as

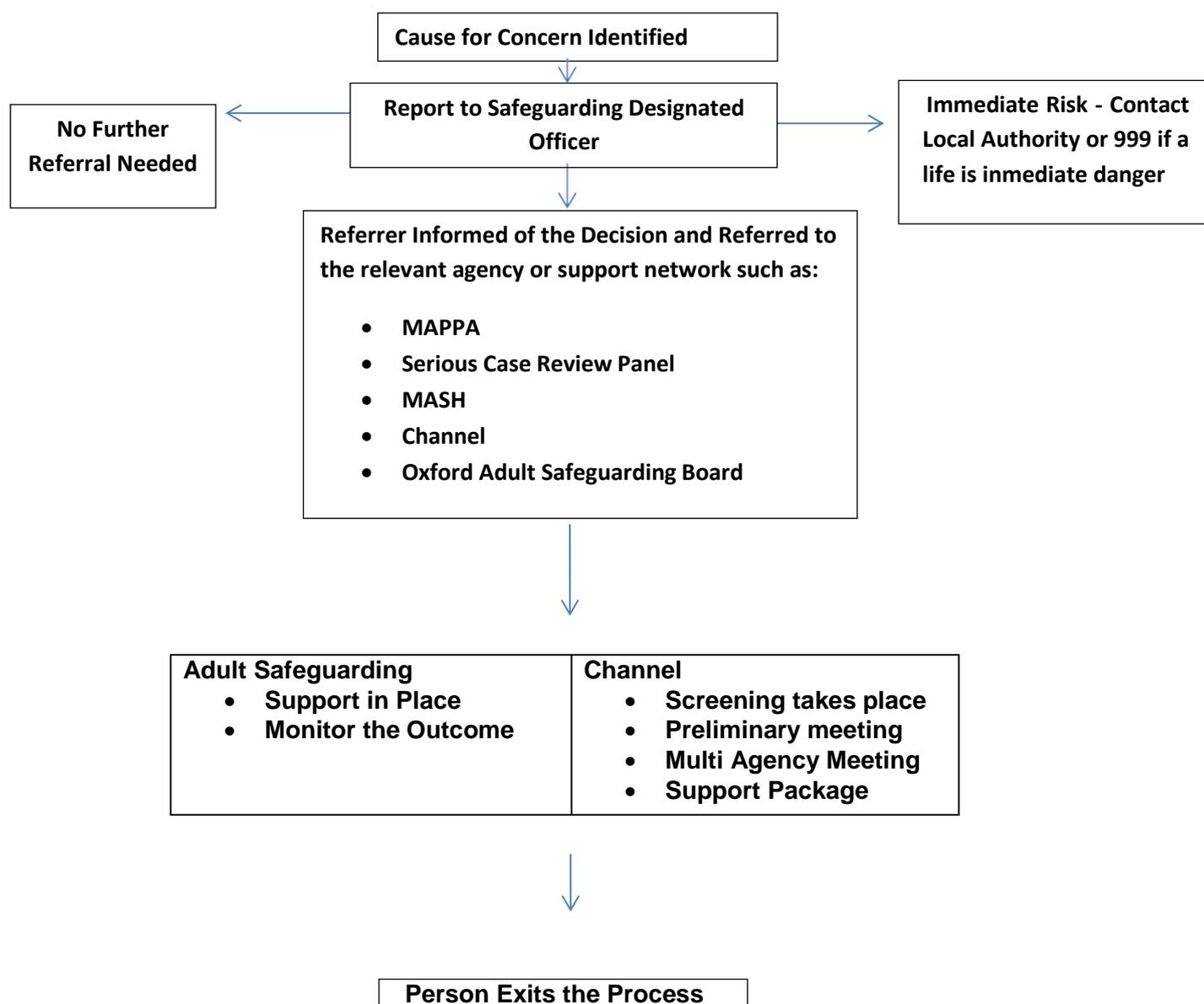
appropriate. They will keep other staff, including the referrer, informed on a 'need to know' basis.

The Governing Executive is responsible for regular review and updating of this policy. One member of the Governing Executive will be asked to take a particular interest in this area and to liaise with the designated member of staff. This is currently the Chair.

6. 7. Remember

You are not expected to know about adult safeguarding in detail or to take a lead. You are expected to demonstrate concern and to check for immediate danger to the learner concerned or to any other person who may require the emergency services to be called. Beyond that, you should only listen and reassure in very general and non-committal terms, communicating your concerns at the earliest possible opportunity to the designated person or whoever he leaves in charge if he is away. Academic staff teaching on programmes that send learners out on placement may need to know more about learners' personal issues (e.g. health or mental health) because these may potentially impinge on the placement organisation's duty of care to the public. This will be discussed with the learner by programme staff at an early stage.

Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Process



Student Services Manager
Email: vpatel@ruskin.ac.uk
Phone or text: 07787428586

Principal: Paul Di Felice Email:
Email: pfelice@ruskin.ac.uk
Phone or text: 07815 707786

Chair of the Governors: Doug Nicholls
Email: Doug@gftu.org.uk

ⁱ Safeguarding Children, Young People or Young Vulnerable Adults Policy. 8 March 2018. OFSTED

ⁱⁱ Prevent Duty Guidance for Further Education institutions in England & Wales, HM Government