

SECTION 1 - SAFEGUARDING

Appendix 1 - WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Whilst there is no statutory definition of safeguarding, `Safeguarding children: working together under the Children Act` 2004 sets out that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is concerned with:

- protecting children from abuse and neglect;
- preventing impairment of their health or development;
- ensuring that they receive safe and effective care;

Abuse can be defined as a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons.

See Appendix 19 for specific definitions of child, young person, adults at risk of harm etc.

1. WHY IS SAFEGUARDING NECESSARY IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

The Lord Laming Report, 2003, stated that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This means that in an educational setting, including a university, everyone should know whom to contact if they have concerns about a child or adult at risk. Following this report, the Children's Act 2004 required local authorities across England and Wales to set up a Local Safeguarding Children Board. The business of this board is to ensure collective accountability for safeguarding children.

The Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 established the National Independent Safeguarding Board for Wales to provide support and advice to the local Children's Safeguarding Boards and newly established Adult Safeguarding Boards (these may join together as one board in defined areas).

Universities have a common law duty to take the necessary steps that are reasonable to ensure that children and adults at risk are safe and that reasonably foreseeable harm does not occur as a result of careless acts or omissions of the institution.

The University recognises its particular responsibility to safeguard the wellbeing of children and adults at risk engaged in the breadth of the University's activities by ensuring that there are appropriate arrangements in place to enable it to discharge its duty to provide a safe and secure environment and to deal with issues concerned with suspected or reported abuse.

The University seeks to ensure that its policy and procedures comply with statutory duties and reflect available guidance on good practice in safeguarding and that safeguarding arrangements are proportionate to the risks involved.