

Embedding concerns about radicalisation into safeguarding policy and processes

Overview of situation

The University had in place safeguarding procedures for children, young people and vulnerable adults with an identified Lead Safeguarding Officer. The University was reviewing safeguarding procedures as part of the normal review cycle. The University was also reviewing its response to the Prevent agenda to ensure all appropriate measures were in place.

The focus in the revised Prevent Strategy on safeguarding was noted and it was agreed that this should be incorporated into the University's Safeguarding Policy. The Safeguarding Policy was revised by a small group of two senior managers (the Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Officers) and the Head of Student Services. The revised policy clarified that the Lead Safeguarding Officer would take a policy lead on safeguarding matters with coordination of responses to cases sitting with the Head of Student Services as Safeguarding Coordinator.

The draft Safeguarding Policy included a section about concerns about radicalisation. The draft Safeguarding Policy followed the previous model with a small number of designated safeguarding contacts across the institution at a senior level. The policy clarified that the role of the Safeguarding Coordinator as a single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns was to ensure that there was a clear picture about concerns, whilst local points of contact were responsible for providing advice about the process and gathering information to send to the single point of contact.

Action taken

The draft Safeguarding Policy was circulated to key professional services managers who asked for an increased number of safeguarding contacts at a more local level. The managers felt that this would ensure that local points of contact were accessible to staff and would have relevant local knowledge. These staff were not senior within the institution but all appeared to be content to take on the role of local contact.

All local points of contact undertook WRAP HE FE training and a separate session about safeguarding children and young people.

Following feedback from participants, it has been agreed that future WRAP sessions will include information about local safeguarding referral processes so that all attendees understand the local approach and who to contact.

University reflections

This approach of using more local contacts provides greater confidence that we are aware of any concerns. Response to the training has been positive and has resulted in the local

representatives asking for additional WRAP sessions within their areas. This has increased buy in to WRAP training resulting in increased awareness of the Prevent agenda.

Positioning concerns about radicalisation as a safeguarding issue has also facilitated a positive approach to discussions about concerns about individuals.