

An Overview of Safeguarding and Prevent at the University of Bolton

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from the risk of harm. It includes preventing those who are deemed unsuitable to work with them from doing so and being alert to and acting upon situations where they may be caused harm. The University has a zero tolerance approach to any forms of potentially harmful behaviour.

ADULT AT RISK

An adult at risk (formerly referred to as vulnerable adults) is someone who is aged 18 years or more who:

- has needs for care and support
- is experiencing, or is at risk, of abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of their need for care and support is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

CHILD

Any child (any person under 18) can be abused anywhere at any time. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable. Children can be abused by anyone – adults or other children.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse can be:

- something that happens once
- something that happens repeatedly
- a deliberate act
- something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
- a crime.

REPORTING A CONCERN

Any incidents which cause concern in respect of a child or adult at risk are required to be reported immediately to your relevant **Designated Safeguarding Champion (DSC)**.

Your Safeguarding Champion will complete the Safeguarding Referral Form Online and if appropriate, will inform the Safeguarding Officer (SO) or Deputy Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

The University Safeguarding Policy and Procedure can be found here:

<https://www.bolton.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/student-policies>

For further information or to identify who your Safeguarding Champion is please contact the Life Lounge by telephone on: 01204 903566 or by email: lifelounge@bolton.ac.uk

ABUSE CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME AND BE CAUSED BY ANYONE

It might be:

- a partner or relative
- a friend or neighbour
- a paid or volunteer carer
- other service users
- someone in a position of trust
- a stranger.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

No one should have to live with abuse.

By reporting abuse, you can help bring it to an end. We all have a responsibility to safeguard others from abuse or neglect.

Doing nothing is not an option.

Remember

- abuse is always wrong
- you can let the person being abused know that help is available. You could give them this leaflet
- try to include the person in the decision to seek help
- if someone is injured you may need to help them to get to a doctor or call for an ambulance
- if you think a crime has been committed, you can call the police
- you can always get advice. You can do this anonymously.

Prevent

What is Prevent?

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Under the Prevent duty introduced by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the University, as a higher education body has need to assess the risks of people being drawn into terrorism/extremism and has plans in place for mitigating these risks in a proportionate and risk-based way. Government guidance defines extremism as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The definition includes calls for death of members of armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. The University takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community from being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism whilst protecting academic freedom and freedom of speech.

Prevent Is NOT:

- Snooping on staff or students
- Interfering with academic freedom and freedom of speech
- Ignoring our legal responsibilities relating to equality and diversity or confidentiality and data protection
- Undermining good relationships internally or externally
- Preventing research and teaching on sensitive topics
- Cancelling external speakers or events.

Staff or Students who have concerns relating to students or colleagues being drawn in to terrorism should contact the relevant Designated Safeguarding Champion.

Safeguarding at the



Safeguarding at the



What are the different categories of abuse?

ADULTS AT RISK

- **Physical abuse** which may involve: being hit, kicked, slapping, choking, making someone purposefully uncomfortable. Forcible feeding or withholding food, locked in a room or inappropriate restraint.
- **Sexual abuse** which may involve: being made to take part in a sexual activity when the adult has not given or is not able to give their consent and can include rape, inappropriate touching, non-consensual masturbation/sexual penetration, sexual teasing or innuendo.
- **Psychological abuse** which may involve: being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied resulting in feelings of anxiety/fear for the victim.
- **Financial or material abuse** which may involve: theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with financial matters or misuse of someone else's finances.
- **Neglect** which may involve: the failure to provide care or support that results in someone being harmed.
- **Discriminatory abuse** which may involve: treatment or harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religious belief.
- **Modern slavery** which may involve: human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and debt bondage.
- **Organisational or institutional** which may involve: discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives or friends, run-down or overcrowded establishment, authoritarian management or rigid regimes, lack of leadership and supervision, inappropriate use of restraint, lack of respect for dignity and privacy and failure to respond to complaints.
- **Domestic Abuse** which may involve abuse between partners or by a family member. This can include psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse.
- **Self-neglect** which may involve: an adult declines essential support with their care and support needs, and this is having a substantial impact on their overall wellbeing or a deterioration in mental state and an inability to make informed decisions about personal care.

USEFUL CONTACTS

To find out more about the University Safeguarding Policy or to identify who is your Safeguarding Champion please contact the Student Advisors or Wellbeing Team using the following contacts:

Student Advisors - Tel: 01204 903733 or by email: studentadvisors@bolton.ac.uk

Wellbeing Team (Life Lounge) - Tel: 01204 903566 or by email: Lifelounge@bolton.ac.uk

or you can find the **University Policy** here: <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/student-policies>

In the event of an emergency i.e. someone is at immediate risk of harm please contact the **Police** using 999 (Emergency) or 101 (non-emergency).

Child Line - Help for children and young people - Tel: 0800 1111 or visit: <https://www.childline.org.uk>

NSPCC - Help for adults concerned about a child - Tel: 0808 800 5000 or visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

If you are concerned about someone being drawn in to **terrorism** and you wish to talk to the **Police** please use 0800 789 321 or 101.

Likewise to report **suspicious activity** please contact 0800 789 321 or visit <https://act.campaign.gov.uk>

CHILDREN

- **Physical abuse** which may involve: beating, hitting, pushing, shaking, kicking, throwing, pinching, biting, choking, hair-pulling, burning with cigarettes, scalding water or other hot objects, or severe physical punishment.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- **Sexual abuse** which may involve: Fondling, touching or kissing a child's genitals or making a child fondle an adult's genitals, violations of bodily privacy, using a child in the production of pornography, luring a child for sexual liaisons, through the internet or by any other means, or sexual exploitation such as using a child to perform sex with others or sexual acts with a child, penetration, intercourse, incest, rape, oral sex.
- **Neglect** which may involve: failing to provide adequate food or clothing, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failing to ensure adequate supervision, including using inadequate people to provide care, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, or being unresponsive to a child's emotional needs.
- **Emotional abuse** which may involve: ignoring, withdrawal of attention, rejection, threatening or frightening, belittling such as telling the child he or she is "no good", "worthless", "bad", or "a mistake", using extreme forms of punishment, such as confinement to a closet or dark room, or witnessing the physical abuse of others.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ABUSE IS REPORTED?

When you report abuse, people will:

- listen to you
- take your concerns seriously
- respond sensitively
- make enquiries about the concerns
- consider the wishes of the person at risk
- talk to the police if it is a criminal matter
- support the adult at risk to achieve the changes they want, wherever possible
- consider if anyone else is at risk

HELP WHEN RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS

The following table provides some useful dos and don'ts about handling allegations

DO	
✓	be supportive
✓	take what the young person says seriously
✓	remain calm
✓	reassure the child/young person that it was right to tell someone
✓	use language the child/young person understands
✓	explain what will happen next
✓	write down immediately afterwards what was said, including the time, place and any other observations: sign and date the record
✓	share your concern with a SDSC
✓	remember that you need support. Seek advice and support for yourself.

DON'T	
✗	panic
✗	delay
✗	promise to keep secrets
✗	ask leading questions
✗	ask the child/young person to repeat the story unnecessarily
✗	express any opinions about what you are told
✗	discuss the disclosure with anyone other than those staff named in the Safeguarding Policy or your line manager
✗	start to investigate

