

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Policy Review				
Author	Position	Approved by Corporation	Approval date	Review date
Michelle Joy	Head of Student Experience	(Delegated Powers to Mark Bolton) Signed: 	07 October 21	07 Oct 23

Added detail around Safeguarding during Covid-19 - changes will be updated according to Government Policy throughout this period

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

To ensure that college adheres to its legal obligation and social responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This is in accordance with legislation such as the Children Act 2004, Education Act 2002 and Guidance (September 2004), Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Equality Act 2010, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2018, part 5 as applies to Prevent and Channel, and in practice and policy directed by the Government's publication, working together to Safeguard Children in Education 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 (KCSIE).Gov.Uk Further Education Covid 19 operational guidance, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice 0-25 yrs. 2014, Sexual Violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges 2021, Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, Human Rights Act 1998

The term learner refers to children, young people and any other student enrolled at college and or engaged in any activity on college premises **including distance learning/working from home**. Any student under the age of 18 is deemed to be a child in the eyes of the law. The term vulnerable adult refers to any person, over the age of 18, in need of community care or support services because of old age, mental health issues, physical disability, hearing, seeing and/or communication difficulties, learning disabilities or the inability to protect themselves from significant harm or being taken advantage of. There is a separate policy and procedures to cover the Children's Centre as there are additional legal requirements for each. The term staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the College, on any contract including temporary or permanent basis, in either a paid or voluntary role. The term parent refers to birth parents or other adults who have parental responsibility such as stepparent, foster carers, adoptive parents and in the absence of these the Local Authority named person.

Yeovil College is committed to improving and promoting best practice throughout the organisation and ensuring that the wellbeing of learners is safeguarded and that they are protected from harm. This in turn will promote opportunities for them to thrive and benefit from their learning experience and fostering a culture where learners are valued and their right to be safe is respected. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Under this policy abuse and neglect are defined as forms of maltreatment to any young person or vulnerable adult, whether college students or otherwise. This may be by omission or commission i.e.,

inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. We recognise a child can be abused in a family, institution or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Abuse may be by an adult(s) or another child(ren). The main categories of abuse are neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and financial abuse. Child Protection refers to the processes taken to protect those who are under 18 or under 25 with and EHCP/SEND who have been identified as suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm

The safeguarding of children also includes protection from harassment (including e-safety, sexual harassment/sexual violence), forced marriage or honour based violence, Female Genital Mutilation, breast binding, cuckooing, radicalisation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which includes sexting, harmful sexual behaviour, criminal exploitation (CE County Lines), modern slavery, trafficking, homophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic or antisemitic (in line with Equality Act 2010 and IHRA definitions) and an awareness of contextual safeguarding/extrafamilial safeguarding. It also includes safeguarding of children where there is a concern regarding the safety of a child in the care of an adult learner.

RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

The Corporation has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and will ensure that the arrangements for protecting learners are effective, robust, and reviewed on a regular basis.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) or safeguarding deputies can be contacted on 07973 898 849 between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 4.30pm Friday during term time, a rota will also be in place out of term time during these hours except when the College is on efficiency closure. The Head of Student Experience can be contacted on 01935 845 354. During any lockdown or Covid-19 restrictions the Safeguarding phone is held solely by the Head of Student Experience as the DSO, and should illness occur this will pass to the Deputy Safeguarding Officer or Vice Principal as per the continuity plans in place.

In the event of an incident occurring outside of these hours or in the unusual event that no safeguarding officers are available contact Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224 out of hours Somerset 0300 123 2327 or for Dorset learners contact ChAD (Child Advice and Duty Service 01305228558). If learners are based away from these 2 Counties, staff must contact the local safeguarding board for that area. All incidents reported this way will still need to be recorded on MyConcern for legal purposes by the member of staff and to inform the DSO.

A student who has Social Services or other agency involvement is recognised as being more vulnerable and will be monitored closely by the DSL and safeguarding team, this includes Children Looked After (CLA/LAC) and care leavers. Those with a disability, SEND, EHCP or additional needs are more vulnerable. Students missing in education, those who are young carers or have family members presenting with challenges including parent in prison, substance misuse or mental health

KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) 2022 says provisions should have at least two emergency contacts for every child in the college in case of emergencies or welfare concerns.

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer/Lead (DSO/DSL) is clearly defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 Annex C [Keeping children safe in education 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2022) and a full job description is added to the role of the DSO/DSL.

Recognition of actual or suspected abuse is the responsibility of all staff. All staff will receive training to support their understanding and awareness of safeguarding issues. This will be regularly updated. All staff must electronically sign on MyConcern to say they have read and understood part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education as part of their training; HR will maintain the single central record for mandatory training

Recognition of concerns with regards to radicalisation is the responsibility of all staff. This is to be reported to the DSO who will work with the local Police officer for Prevent and make relevant referrals through Channel. All staff will have completed the online training from the home office [Prevent Awareness Online Training](#)

The Designated Safeguarding Governor, who has responsibility for safeguarding concerns, including Prevent, can be contacted via the Clerk to the Corporation on 01935 845 418 or via Gillian.Macpherson@yeovil.ac.uk The Designated Governor is responsible for overseeing the liaison between the Police and Children's Social Care in connection with allegations against the Principal or the Safeguarding Officer with lead responsibility. This process will not involve undertaking any form of investigation but will ensure good communication between the parties and provision of recorded information to assist enquiries. KCSIE 2022 places an expectation for Governors to have read the full DSL job description in Annex C and attend safeguarding training at the point of induction.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED ABUSE, RADICALISATION AND CONCERNS

Cause for concerns may include:

- Signs of physical abuse e.g., bruising
- Signs of sexual abuse or concerns with regards to CSE (Child Sex Exploitation) or CE (Criminal Exploitation) sexual harassment, sexual violence including child on child abuse
- Signs of emotional abuse or concerns with regards to mental health/self-harm/suicidal thoughts
- Suspicions of abuse or radicalisation due to changes in behaviour
- Disclosure by learner where a member of staff believes the learner to be at risk of harm or radicalisation
- Any obvious signs of neglect
- Use of inappropriate language
- Possession of inappropriate literature including online access
- Expression of extremist views or association with known extremists or seeking to recruit others to extremist ideology
- Cuckooing or grooming
- FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)
- Fabricated Illness (FII)
- Modern slavery/ human trafficking
- Homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, and antisemitism

Full definitions are found in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

In the event that staff are concerned they must:

- Record information received and observations made on MyConcern
- If urgent contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer or one of the designated deputies within the college on 07973898849 for further advice
- If out of college hours to contact the emergency services or relevant duty social work team

Dealing with a Disclosure

If a child discloses that they are being abused in some way or they are at risk of harm to themselves or others the member of staff or volunteer should:

Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief

Accept what is being said

Allow the child to talk freely

Reassure the child but not make promises which might not be possible to keep

Never promise to not tell anyone – as this may not be in the best interests of the child

Reassure them and that it is the right thing to tell
Listen, and only ask questions if clarification is needed
Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
Record it on MyConcern and if immediately urgent contact the safeguarding phone
Inform the DSL (they will pick this up via MyConcern report/Safeguarding phone)

Staff to seek support following a disclosure as it can be very distressing
If the disclosure is about a member of staff, see Allegations against staff below

Information will be recorded on a confidential password protected database MyConcern. Any learner related safeguarding information will be recorded within the 'my concern' software. This allows all staff involved in a specific case appropriate access to information relative to the level of concern for reporting; DSL's will have access to all details. For safeguarding purposes old databases will be for information only and archived appropriately to support both GDPR and safeguarding requirements.

Student self-referral

Students can share any concerns directly using the report a concern button on Moodle. This is available to all students with a Yeovil College email address. Concerns will be triaged, acted on and will be recorded on MyConcern.

Students can self-refer for pastoral support using the self-referral form on the wellbeing page or via their tutor/SPM.

Students have access to TalkCampus a 24/7/365 service which will support at all levels of need and at point of crisis refer students to the relevant external agency including out of hours. A Safeguarding report is then sent to the college using the student email address. All students with a Yeovil College email address have access to this service.

All members of the college community are entitled to be safe and feel safe. Following guidance from [searching, screening and confiscation advice for schools 2022](#) procedures to carry out a search and considering obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights Article 8 under the Education Act 1996 this can be carried out by the DSO/L and other members of staff authorised by the Principal. Banned and prohibited items and the procedure for screening, searching and confiscation should be outlined in the Disciplinary policy

Should there be further restrictions due to **Covid-19** all students identified as vulnerable as per the Government guidelines and local authority will be contacted by each curriculum area each week by a named member of staff. If there is no response from the student or parent/carer and there are concerns around welfare or work not being completed, then concerns will be raised immediately with the DSO who will act as the point of contact with the appropriate supporting agency

All emotional support and learning would continue to take place online/remotely. Student support and counselling sessions would continue for those learners who may not be in the category identified by the Government as vulnerable but need to continue to access the emotional support during this time is carried out remotely using email, phone and Teams maintaining GDPR protocols.

Mental Health

Additional support specifically aimed for during such times is on the student wellbeing page and marketing provide links and support as part of their social media presence. Safeguarding officers access Applied Suicide Intervention training (Asist) and Mental Health First Aid training [Suicide prevention strategy for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

New Starter training

All staff complete online Safeguarding, Prevent, FGM, Transgender modules and record having ready KCSIE 2021/2 with HR. Regular updates and current themes are shared by the DSO/L and delivered through CPD, emails. Team meetings and the Safeguarding Steering Group headed by the Vice Principal of Quality of Education

Meetings

All meetings during any Covid restrictions where appropriate continue using online modes of communication to include PEPs for Children looked after, Child protection conferences and child looked after reviews.

COMMITTEES

Safeguarding issues should be raised at Governance, Senior Management Team, College Management Team and Health and Safety Committee meetings. Safeguarding will be monitored regularly at the Safeguarding Steering Group Meetings. There is a legal requirement that the Governing Body reviews an annual report on Safeguarding produced by the Designated Safeguarding Officer. A Section 175 audit date is set by the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. This audit is completed by the DSO/Lin in conjunction with the Governor for Safeguarding and Prevent.

The College recognises through these committees the positive contribution it can make towards safeguarding learners from radicalisation and violent extremism and exploitation. As part of these committees and through training for all staff, the College will empower students to create communities that are resilient to extremism and exploitation. It aims to protect those most vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism or crime.

The College recognises that there is no place for sexual harassment, sexual violence or Child on Child abuse including online and has a zero tolerance for such situations.

OUTCOMES

The Designated Safeguarding Officer will refer information to or seek advice from other relevant organisations as appropriate e.g., Children's Social Care, Police, Somerset Direct, Dorset Children's Services or Somerset/Dorset Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. There is an expectation that concerns should be shared with parents/carers unless by doing so the learner might be placed at greater risk of harm. Early Help Assessments will be completed or other relevant referral processes to external agencies.

In the event of the concerns not being appropriate for referral at that stage then the learner will be monitored through an appropriate member of staff in liaison with the Safeguarding Officer.

Staff will receive support as required.

ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST STAFF, VOLUNTEERS OR GOVERNORS OF THE CORPORATION – WHISTLEBLOWING

All staff and volunteers (including Governors) are recruited in accordance with the College Safer Recruitment Policy and within the DBS/Vetting and Safeguarding guidelines.

In an educational establishment learners need to be protected from grooming, forming inappropriate relationships, exploitation (particularly through the internet), physical abuse, violence, bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual violence, victimisation, recruiting or being enticed into extremist organisations/activities etc. They also need to be protected against homophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic and antisemitic behaviours. This protection covers all full-time, part-time, HE and work-based learners in all settings.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff (including the Principal) or a volunteer (including a Governor) it should be reported immediately to the Vice Principal Quality of Education. After initial investigations, the Vice Principal with responsibility for safeguarding will inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 0300 123 2224 if it is found that the allegation requires escalation. Any

investigation should be carried out by a member of staff who has undertaken at least the “Working together” Somerset Safeguarding Children Board advanced interagency training.

*The only exception to this is if an allegation is made against the Vice Principal Quality of Education in which case it should be reported immediately to the Principal who will inform the Local Authority Designated Officer, 0300 123 2224.

Any resulting investigation should be carried out by a member of staff who has undertaken at least the “Working together” Somerset Safeguarding Children Board advanced interagency training.

In addition, allegations against:

- A member of the Senior Management Team (including the Principal).
- Any Governor (other than the Designated Governor) should be reported to the Designated Governor via the Clerk to the Corporation.

Allegations against the Designated Governor should be reported to the Chair of the Corporation via the Clerk to the Corporation.

Allegations against the Clerk to the Corporation should be reported to the Designated Governor via the Vice Principal Quality of Education.

Low level concerns as identified with KCSIE are dealt with in accordance with Allegations Against Adults policy and procedure and Yeovil College recognises that an open and transparent culture is integral to the ‘it could happen here’ consideration. If any of the low-level concern allegations reach threshold as identified in paragraph 3 of Allegations Against Adults policy and procedure this will be reported to the LADO

ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST ANOTHER STUDENT

If an allegation is made by a student against another member of the student body, this must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Officer for students using the reporting tools available, MyConcern or calling the safeguarding phone if an urgent risk. The Designated Safeguarding Officer will refer information to or seek advice from other relevant organisations as appropriate e.g. Children’s Social Care, Police, Somerset Direct or Somerset/Dorset Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. There is an expectation that concerns should be shared with parents/carers unless by doing so the learner might be placed at greater risk of harm.

RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS

This policy is supported by:

Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Flowchart
Appendix 2 – Prevent & Channel Referral Guide
Safeguarding Procedures
Drugs and Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy
Customer Service Policy (Handling Complaints)
Recruitment Policy & Procedure
Respect at College Policy
Disclosure and Barring Service Handling Policy
Student Support Services Referral Procedure
Equality and Diversity Policy
Children’s Centre Safeguarding Policy
Student Code of Conduct (Student Guide)
Maternity and Paternity Policy for Students
Sexual Misconduct & Harassment Policy
Allegations Against Adults Policy

Document Control – Revision History

Author/Owner	Summary of Changes	Date	Date last reviewed by SED	Recommend to SED Y/N
Kate Hill	Minor amendments	13.04.16	-	Y
Nikki Sendell	Minor amendments to reflect Safeguarding On-line Audit guidelines	11.11.16	13.05.16	N
Michelle Dennett	Minor amendments to reflect staff changes and revised Prevent & Channel referral guide.	01.06.17	13.05.16	N
Michelle Dennett	Minor amendments to reflect staff changes, revised KCSIE document and introduction of My Concern database .	18.06.18	13.05.16	
Michelle Dennett	Amendments to reflect contextualised safeguarding and documentation.	17.05.19	13.05.16	N
Michelle Dennett	COVID amendments added in red on the above document	23.03.20	13.05.16	N
Michelle Joy	Updated to reflect current themes and additional documentation links and updated Government documents, changes in staff structure and student self referral process	19/08/21		
Michelle Joy	Updated to reflect current themes and documents including search and confiscation guidance, and other relevant legislation. Including new policy and low level concerns, Allegations against adults policy	15.8.22		

Initial Equality Impact Screening
Who has been consulted on this policy & procedure? Consultation with members of the Learner Support Services Team, Human Resources, Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity Group
What evidence has been used for this impact screening (e.g. related policies, publications)? Further education COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Statement of expectations - Office for Students](#)

[Working Definition of Antisemitism | IHRA \(holocaustremembrance.com\)](https://www.holocaustremembrance.com)

[Suicide prevention strategy for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Keeping children safe in education 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Searching, Screening and Confiscation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[NHS England » Mental health support in schools and colleges](#)

Declaration (please tick one statement and indicate any negative impacts)

☒ We are satisfied that an initial screening has been carried out on this policy/procedure and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. There are no specific negative impacts on any of the Protected Characteristics groups.

☐ We recommend that an Equality Impact Assessment is required by the Equality and Diversity group, as possible negative impacts have been identified for one or more of the Protected Characteristics groups as follows:

☐ Age

☐ Disability

☐ Gender Reassignment

☐ Race

☐ Religion or belief

☐ Sex

☐ Sexual orientation

☐ Marriage & civil partnership

☐ Pregnancy & maternity

Completed by Author: Michelle Joy **Position:** Head of Student Experience **Date:** 19.08.21

☐ Reviewed by Equality & Diversity Group Date:

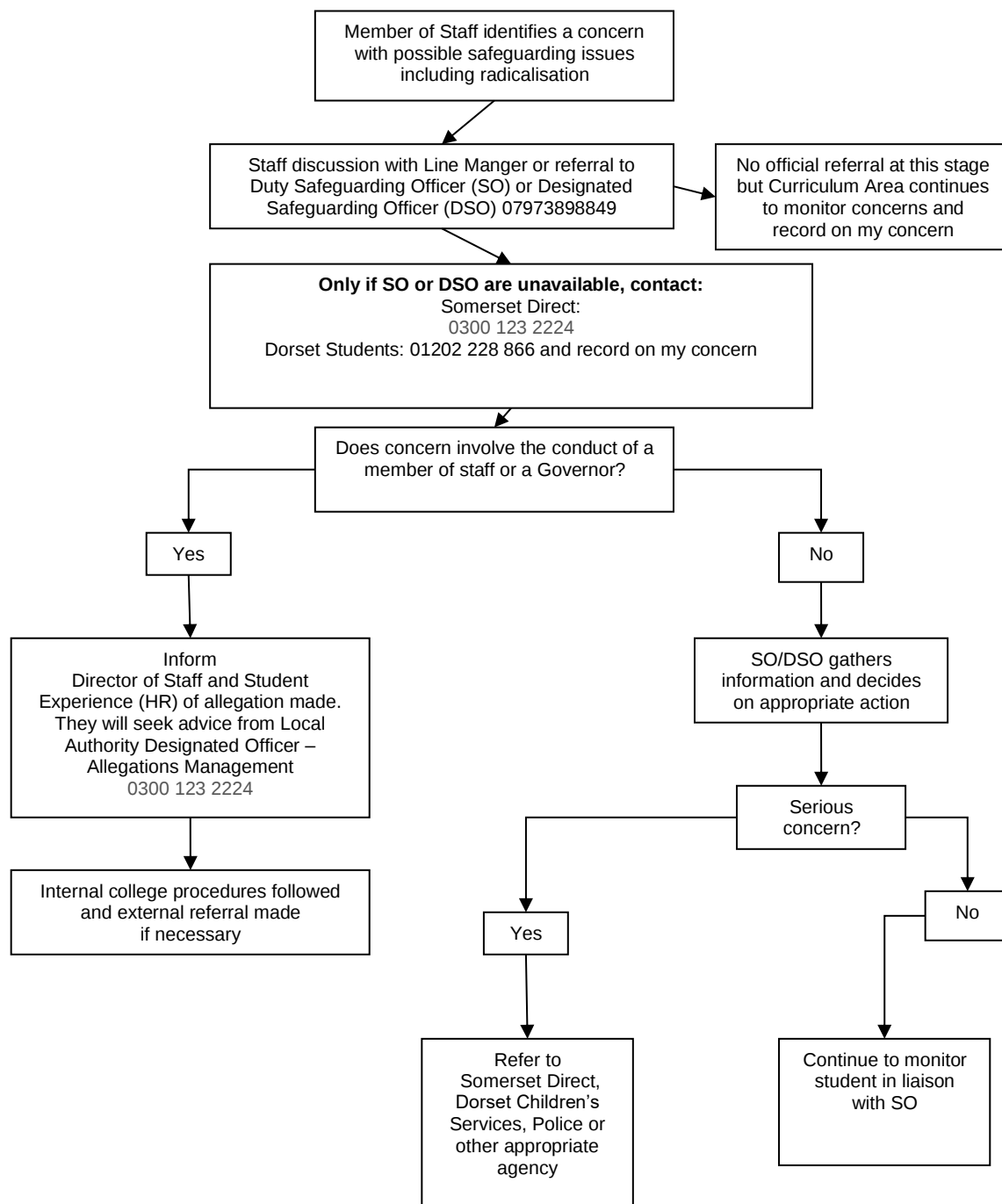
☐ We confirm that any recommended amendments have been made

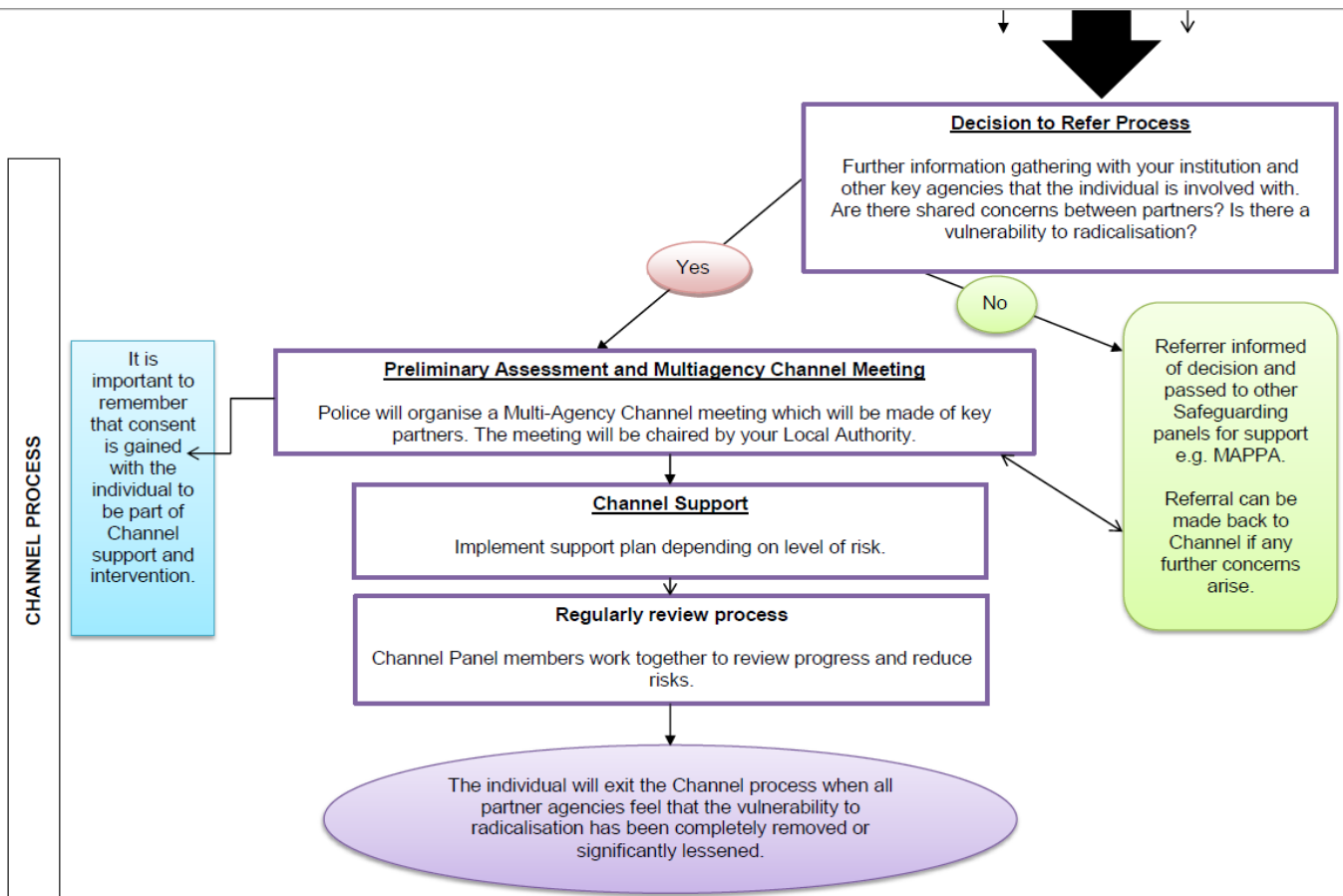
Amended by Author: Position: Date:

Summary of Comments/Recommendations from Equality & Diversity Group Review:

Appendix 1

SAFEGUARDING FLOWCHART





Prevent and Channel Referral guide For reporting a concern of a vulnerable individual

