

Document Reference	
Document status	
Document owner	Sarah Sweeney
Review period	Annually
Date of first approval	November 2021
Date of most recent review	October 2024
Date of next review	November 2025
Version number	1.3

1.0	November 2021	First version, Sarah Sweeney, Head of Student Support and Wellbeing
1.1	November 2022	Reviewed by C-SHAW, no updates required
1.2	October 2023	Revised to include safeguarding in relation to research activity; updates to role description for Local Safeguarding Officers.
1.3	October 2024	Revised to include: reference to Freedom of Speech; further updates to role description for Local Safeguarding Officers; clarification that LU's teaching partnerships are subject to local safeguarding arrangements.

Lancaster University [Commitment to Safeguarding](#)

Lancaster University [Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Procedures and Guidance](#)
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The Higher Education Sector has not had specific duties placed on it by legislation in respect of safeguarding, however institutions are expected to ensure that children, young people and adults at risk are safe and protected in all interactions with an institution. The University may also hold specific responsibilities for safeguarding under the compliance frameworks of various accrediting bodies and research funders (e.g. UKRI).

- 1.2 Lancaster University's commitment to our applicants, students, staff, partner bodies and the community at large are defined in our Strategic Plan, People and Culture Plan 2021-2026, and Student Charter.¹

Lancaster University acknowledges our responsibilities towards safeguarding groups and individuals at risk, in particular those relating to the protection of children and adults at risk identified under the following (not exhaustive):

- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Domestic Violence and Crime Act (2004)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010)
- The Protections of Freedoms Act (2012)
- Mental Health Act (1983) as amended (2007)
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- The Care Act 2014
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- The Children Act 1989
- Disclosure and Barring Service requirements
- Data Protection Act 2018

1.3 In some cases, individuals are placed at risk due to the environment or the beliefs, actions or aggressions of other people. Examples of this include instances such as:

- stalking, hate crimes or other forms of harassment;
- domestic violence, sexual abuse;
- financial or material abuse;
- homelessness;
- refugees/asylum seeker status.

In such cases the University will work with the person concerned and relevant authorities such as Social Care or the NHS to support that individual and undertake all reasonable actions to safeguard them. The University will normally seek to work within the parameters of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

1.4 The University is permitted to share personal and sensitive information with relevant parties should it be believed that a child or adult is at risk of harm. Where the University believes that the situation is such that an adult individual is unable to make an informed decision, confidentiality may be breached to protect that individual. Where such instances occur, the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead (or nominee) will take advice from relevant professional teams and consult with the Data Protection Officer and the Strategic Planning and Governance team before releasing any information.

1.5 All actions under this policy will comply with the general principles identified by the Pan Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board.²

2.1 The purpose of this document is to:

- identify who is responsible for safeguarding adults and children;
- identify the methods by which the University will safeguard groups and individuals at risk;
- set out the University's policy with regard to how it discharges its safeguarding duties and the protection of groups and individuals at risk and how this will be achieved;
- set out the administrative responsibilities in the event of an incident or a concern;
- set out the University's position on information sharing with regard to safeguarding;
- identify where supporting information can be found.

² [Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board - Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board](#)

3.1 Adult at risk – section 42 of The Care Act 2014 defines an adult at risk of harm as a person over the age of 18 who:

(i)

4.1 This policy applies to Lancaster University UK as follows:

- (a) all students registered on an undergraduate programme, postgraduate taught programme, postgraduate research programme or other programme of study offered by Lancaster University with the Bailrigg campus as their primary affiliation;
- (b) all students registered on programmes through INTO with the Bailrigg campus as their primary affiliation;
- (b) prospective students engaged in LU activities;
- (c) adults at risk registered as students or prospective students (as above);
- (d) children and adults at risk engaged in LU-branded activities, including research projects or innovation projects;
- (e) children resident in University accommodation;
- (f) staff in the course of their duties, including those conducting research with children or adults at risk;
- (g) contractors/agents engaged by the University who may come into contact with children,

4.5 Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) operates its own safeguarding policy and procedures. The University works in partnership with LUSU where safeguarding concerns involve University students, staff or activities.

5.1 Lancaster University recognises that we have a statutory responsibility to safeguard the welfare of:

- children within the University community;
- adults at risk within the University community;
- those children and adults at risk who come into contact with University activities, including research activities;

6.3

8.1

A list of current Designated Safeguarding Leads, Deputies and Local Safeguarding Officers is available here: [Safeguarding concerns](#)

1.1 The University's Designated Safeguarding Leads have the following responsibilities:

setting the direction for the University's safeguarding practice for staff/students;
ensuring the institution is meeting its legal and statutory requirements including the Prevent Duty;

undertaking (91 0 0 1 1 12 Tf15(o)o72 0 595.4k5.4 841.81o2 12 Tf1 0 0GB) BDC TIT 0.000008872

3.2

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undertaking appropriate higher-level safeguarding and Prevent awareness training;

providing a source of advice, support and communication and act as the safeguarding contact within their area;

raising awareness of the University's Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy, Procedures and Guidance and Safeguarding in Research Framework with staff in their Faculty/College/Division;

embedding a strong safeguarding reporting culture;

representing departments/services on the safeguarding related committees and groups and provide advice and leadership on signposting within their area,

making referrals to the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads;

