

UK Open College Safeguarding Policy

This policy is provided for UK Open College customers, including learners and staff members who are using or delivering the courses and qualifications we offer.

Location of the policy

This policy is available for viewing on the college website for all students and staff members to access as required.

Communication of the policy

It is important that all staff involved in the management, delivery, assessment and quality assurance of qualifications and learners undertaking a course are aware of this policy.

Review of the policy

UK Open College will review the policy annually and revise as and when required in response to feedback, changes in legislation, practices or actions required by any of the affiliated awarding bodies. Our review will ensure that our procedures remain consistent with the regulatory criteria and are applied properly and fairly in arriving at judgements.

Statement of Principles

UK Open College is committed to practices that protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect or significant harm. Staff members recognise and accept their responsibilities to develop the awareness of the risk and issues involved in safeguarding. UK Open College also recognises that it has a responsibility to protect staff from unfounded allegations of abuse.

UK Open College will seek to ensure, where reasonably practicable, that the outcomes set out in “Every Child Matters” are extended to work-related learning and work based situation, in particular that activities contribute to children and adults:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, children are defined in the Children Act of 1989 as a person under the age of 18 years. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 defines a “vulnerable adult” as a person aged 18 years and over and:

- Receiving a social service
- Receiving a health service
- Living in sheltered accommodation
- Detained in custody or under a probation order
- Requiring assistance in the conduct of his/her affairs

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- Receiving a service or participating in an activity targeted at older people, people with disabilities or with physical or mental health conditions.
- Any other adults whose particular circumstances make them vulnerable at a particular time

Accountability and Responsibility

Staff members are responsible for monitoring and managing incidents or concerns and liaising with the relevant safeguarding agencies when appropriate.

UK Open College is responsible for ensuring that the safeguarding policy and procedures are in place, and that they are available for scrutiny by the relevant authorities including any awarding body. UK Open College are accountable for the overall safeguarding policy of the organisation and will act in accordance with the statutory and legislative guidance to safeguard and protect the welfare of learners and our employees.

Staff Training

UK Open College has a duty to promote safeguarding issues and measures staff and ensure that they:

- Analyse their own practice against established good practice, and assess risk to ensure their practice is likely to protect them from false allegations.
- Recognise their responsibilities and report any concerns about suspected poor practice or possible abuse
- Follow the guidelines for staff
- Undertake training on safeguarding to raise awareness of current issues and legislation
- Complete DBS checks , formerly known as CRB checks

Learners

UK Open College will provide information and guidance for learners with regards to this policy. The company has a responsibility to ensure safe recruitment and employment practices. New and existing staff members who frequently or intensively work with children, young people and vulnerable adults in training, supervision, advice etc will be checked through the Home Office for criminal record information. All potential new employees will be subjected to pre-employment checks.

Statutory Framework

UK Open College aims to meet legislative requirements and good practice in safeguarding. The statutory framework under which we operate includes the Children's Act 1989. This provides a legal framework for the protection of children and young people in the UK. The Protection of Children Act 1999 requires employers to take out DBS checks before employees are allowed to come into contact with children. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 sets out the type of activity relation to children and vulnerable adults for which employers are and individuals will be subject. From 2008 Ofsted inspectors make a judgement on procedures for safeguarding learners meeting current government requirements. They comment on policy, procedures, vetting and training as impact on learner dictates.

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Review

UK Open Colleges' Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually. The review process includes analysis of monitoring data, consultation with and feedback from learners, clients, staff and other stakeholders to determine the impact of the policy and any action required.

