

Safeguarding

Kirsty Allen (Widening Participation Manager)



Protecting young people aged under 18 from harm

“All agencies working with children, young people and their families take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children’s welfare are minimised.”

Reporting suspicions/concerns about young people aged under 18

“Where there are concerns about children and young people’s welfare, all agencies take appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed partnership with other local agencies.”

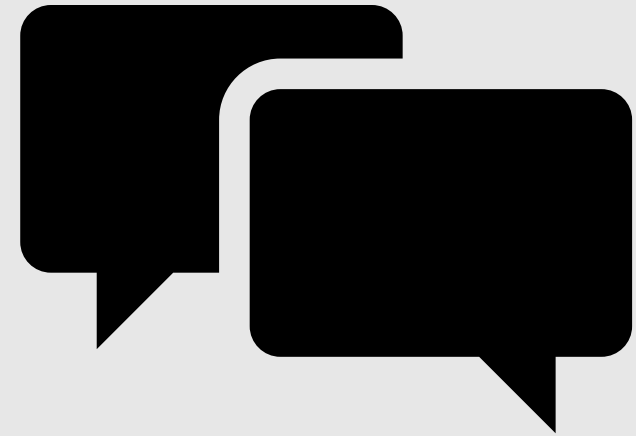
Who is responsible?

“All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including practitioners who do not have a specific role in relation to child protection have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.”

That means all of us!

What might some of the barriers be...

- For young people to tell about abuse?
- For adults to report?



- Are scared because they have been threatened
- Believe they will be taken away from home
- Believe they are to blame
- Think it is what happens to all children
- Feel embarrassed and guilty
- Don't want the abuser to get into trouble
- Have communication or learning difficulties
- May not have the vocabulary for what happened
- Are afraid they won't be believed
- Feel there is no one to talk to
- Stigma of involvement with former services

- Find it hard to believe what we are hearing
- Cannot believe the suspicion that may be about someone we know
- Fear we might 'get it wrong' or make it worse
- Fear the consequences of getting it wrong – for the child, family and for ourselves
- Simply 'don't want to be involved'
- Do not have information about what to do and who to contact

These are normal reactions. However, it is more serious if they prevent us from listening to a child and responding appropriately.

A fear of retribution can also be a powerful silencer.

It is therefore very important that staff or volunteers have the opportunity and 'permission' to speak out.

- Report any allegations of abuse to the Event Lead as soon as possible
- Report any suspicions of abuse to the Event lead as soon as possible



- Do not share information with those who do not **need** to know
- Read the following:
 - [Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy](#) (Word)
 - [St George's, University of London's Safeguarding Officers](#) (Word)
 - [Safeguarding Children and Young People Attending Online and Virtual Events](#) (Word, login required)

- 1) Stay calm and seek help from others to support you and to help manage the rest of the group
- 2) If at all possible, find an appropriate place to speak with the young person and a member of SGUL staff (event lead), away from crowds
- 3) Find an appropriate early opportunity to explain that this information will need to be shared with others – do not promise to keep secrets
- 4) Listen carefully to what is said
- 5) Allow the child to continue at his/her own pace
- 6) Ask questions for clarification only, and at all times avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer and do not investigate further
- 7) Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you

- Inform the event lead about the disclosure as soon as possible
- Record in writing what was said using the child's own words using the Incident report form
- Help or support will be offered after the event – look after yourself too



Who is the Designated Safeguarding Officer?

Naz Hussain |

Interim Director of ERCM

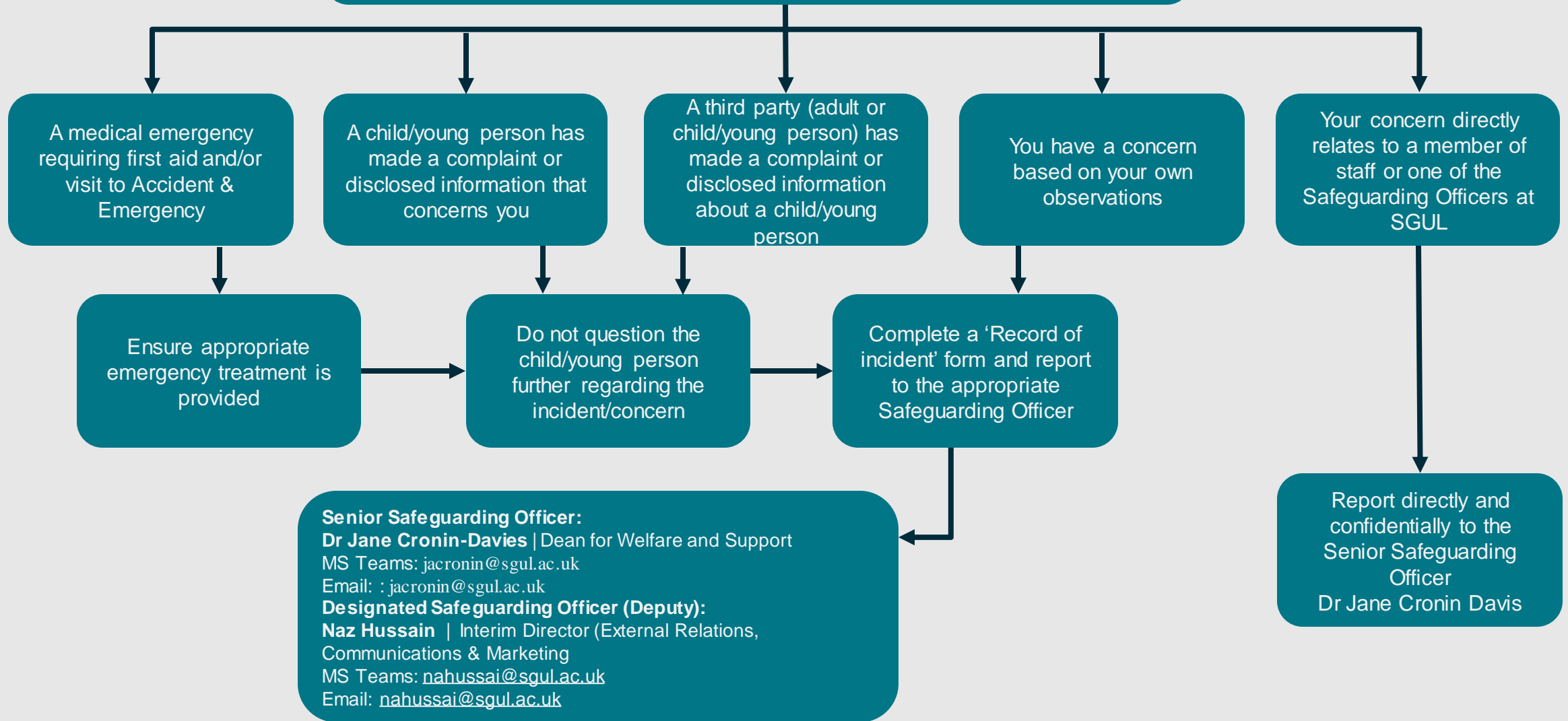
MS Teams (call):

nahussai@sgul.ac.uk

Email: nahussai@sgul.ac.uk

Please note, this will change when the new Head of WP & Outreach joins the team. We will keep you updated on this change.

If you have a concern about a child/young person



PROTECTING YOURSELF - DON'T

- **DON'T** put yourself in situations that are unacceptable within a relationship of trust between an adult and a young person under 18
- **DON'T** give out your own email address, personal phone number, or social media accounts.
- **DON'T** accept 'friend requests' on social media or engage with pupils on any other form of social media.
- **DON'T** try to connect with pupils outside of the programmes allocated times, for example via email, social media or via the platform you have been interacting with them on. If a student tries to contact you, then please report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- **DON'T** make suggestive remarks or gestures, or culturally insensitive comments.
- **DON'T** have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.

PROTECTING YOURSELF - DON'T

- **DON'T** put yourself or the pupils at any risk. Take time to think about your own safety and the safety of others
- **DON'T** get into a situation where you are alone in an enclosed space with a pupil and always keep doors open.
- **DON'T** be alone in a 1:1 video or voice meeting with a pupil.
- **DON'T** permit abusive peer activities (e.g., ridiculing, bullying) – report to the event coordinator.
- **DON'T** take any photos or videos of any of the pupils or University staff/Student Ambassadors (unless instructed by the Programme Lead for safeguarding purposes).
- **DON'T** allow any other members of your household to be seen or heard on the live chat

PROTECTING YOURSELF - DO

- **DO** Read all of the relevant safeguarding documents
- **DO** report anything that you are concerned or upset about regarding a pupil, as well as anything related to the programme, or another staff member, or any concerning/ inappropriate messages that you receive, to the relevant Programme Leader and or Designated Safe Guarding Lead
- **DO** report any incidents / accidents to the relevant staff immediately
- **DO** ensure that you are dressed appropriately (smart casual wear, culturally sensitive, suitable for age of audience, no rude slogans, etc) both online and in person.
- **DO** be aware how someone might misinterpret your words or actions
- **DO** Remember that school students are likely to be under 18, so be careful about where you take them and how you talk about what you do at university
- **DO** politely decline to interact with a another member of the students household (sibling, etc) and feel empowered to leave the live chat if necessary.
- **DO** ensure that your online background does not reveal your location, and that it looks professional and not offensive in any way.

Thank you

Any Questions?

E: wp@sgul.ac.uk

If you're worried or confused about any issues relating to safety or safeguarding, please speak to the WP /Outreach team.

It's our job to support you.