

Safeguarding Bulletin 2024-2025

SUMMER TERM EDITION 5

Welcome and introduction

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who have contributed to maintaining the safety of our young people. This academic year has seen a rise in concerns reported and we attribute this to heightened vigilance from staff, parents and carers and students too.

We triage and manage each separate concern with care and sensitivity and appreciate all the support that stakeholders provide to ensure that our young people stay happy and safe.

This year we have continued to develop in-house mental health and wellbeing support and look forward to further developing this in collaboration with other Trust partners.

We wish everyone a happy and restful holiday.

Louise Keen, Director of Safeguarding and The Safeguarding Team

Anti-bullying update

There have been two assemblies this year on anti-bullying. The more recent assembly was delivered in answer to student feedback that 'nothing ever happens' and 'no-one does anything about it'.

Information was shared with students to show the number of concerns raised about bullying and the outcomes of some of those concerns – the data from MyConcern suggests that the vast majority of cases of bullying that are reported, do not go any further and when a case is reviewed, students report that there has not been any further bullying-type behaviour.

We want to build on this by re-launching the LVC Anti-Bullying Alliance. This will involve a range of students receiving training via the Diana Award – more details in the new academic year.

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: information about **knife crime, anti-bullying, mental health screening in school and young carers**

Years 7-10 took part in an anonymous **mental health screening** opportunity earlier in the year. The results were very encouraging; the data suggesting that most of our students have a positive attitude to their mental health. The company who constructed the survey are keen to work with Anglian Learning again and details of what this could look like will be shared in the new term

Young carers

Staff recently received some training to help with the identification of students who may be young carers.

This training included real-life scenarios in which young carers spoke about the challenges that they face and what sort of support they felt could be helpful – a quiet space to work, a trusted adult to talk to, some help with homework and study.

The session allowed staff to reflect on some of the students in their tutor groups and how extra support could benefit them.

Mrs Hill is Linton Village College's Young Carers' Champion and already works closely with the young carers who have already been identified.

We are pleased to introduce an independent mental health specialist, Inger Madsen, who is offering online sessions to parents who would like advice on how to support teenagers.

'Supporting parents to untangle their own dysfunctional stuff so they don't pass it down to their children: instead, they parent like leaders and raise the future'.

'Helping anxious, angry, stressed teenagers process their painful emotions and heal the underlying issues: instead, they are free to be themselves in all their messy adolescent glory'.

More details of Inger's sessions will come out via ParentComms.

Knife Crime Awareness

Some Year 9 students had the opportunity to look more closely at the problem of knife crime. They visited Ely Magistrates Court, where they were given information around knife crime and the law – stop and search, what constitutes a public place when it comes to carrying a knife and a video that showed the effect that knife crime can have on victims, families and friends. A workshop was led by Quinton Milise, a rapper who is a surviving victim of knife crime. Feedback from the students was positive, in that they found it informative and interesting.

Education around this topic is so important for our young people to help them make the right decisions.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please remember that anyone can make a referral to social care with a safeguarding concern. Ideally, this should be done via the county where the referee lives. If this is unknown, the county of the referrer should be used.

For **Cambridgeshire**, [click here](#)

For **Essex**, [click here](#)

For **Suffolk**, [click here](#)

In an emergency, please dial 999 or to speak to the localised police, dial 101.