LYNWOOD SCHOOL OF VETERINARY NURSING

LSVN Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Last updated	17.02.2026

Definitions

LSVN	means Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing.
Responsible Persons	means Heads of School

Policy Statement

The Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing (LSVN) are committed to practices that protect our learners (and specifically young adults on our programmes) from the risk of harm, radicalisation, and exploitation. Staff and other associates working with LSVN must recognise our common responsibilities to develop an awareness of the issues that may cause our learners harm and adopt appropriate safeguarding practices to minimise the chances of abuse, including those dangers identified in the Prevent duty guidance.

LSVN actively promotes the positive welfare of children, and expects all staff, visitors and partners, including employers and work placement providers, to endorse and always practise this commitment. The Heads of School and all staff at LSVN regard each learner as a unique individual and therefore seek to support their development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence.

We recognise that high self-esteem, peer support, a safe and secure learning and work placement environment together with clear lines of communication with trusted adults helps all learners, children and adults.

These are regarded as central to the wellbeing of the individual and are therefore seen to be an intrinsic part of all aspects of the curriculum and ethos of LSVN.

The aim of the policy is to safeguard all learners, particularly children and those with identified needs at LSVN, work placements and when taking part in a college activity. We have a duty to safeguard all staff, visitors and partners when carrying out their duties in teaching, supervising and supporting learners at LSVN, in the workplace or by distance learning.

LSVN has a duty to ensure that leaders and staff put in place arrangements to:

- Identify children and learners who may need help or are at risk of neglect, abuse, grooming or exploitation.

- Help prevent abuse by raising awareness among students or safeguarding risks and how and where to get help and support if they need it.
- Help those students who are at risk of abuse and need for early help or statutory social care involvement, keeping accurate records, making timely referrals where necessary and working with other agencies to ensure students get the help and support they need.
- Manage allegations about adults who may be a risk and check the suitability of staff who work with children, students and vulnerable adults

The Purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure all of our students are safe and protected from harm.
- Safeguarding procedures are in place to help students to feel safe and learn to stay.
- Adults in the education setting and wider LSVN community are aware of the expected behaviours and the legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and child protection.
- All agencies are providing appropriate support to children and young people through adoption of the early help framework.
- Provide protection for learners on programmes managed by LSVN to ensure their welfare and to underline our commitment to the Prevent duty.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures, young people are any learners under the age of 18 years and we accept the definition of an adult at risk as "a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against harm or exploitation" (Department of Health). We also recognise the additional wider indications of potential vulnerability as outlined in Annex A of the statutory guidance document – Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2025.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

LSVN are committed to ensuring safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all learners by:

- Protecting all students (children, young people and adults) at LSVN from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of our students' mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that students at LSVN grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action so as to enable students at LSVN to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding is about much more than child, young people and adult protection. All staff are aware of our responsibility to act in order to protect all students from various potential sources and types of abuse and harm.

All staff should be aware of early help, abuse and neglect, contextualised safeguarding and other safeguarding issues. All students benefit from early help but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a student who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have an EHCP)
- Is a young carer
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and associated with organised crime groups
- Is frequently missing / goes missing from care or from home
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is a privately fostered child
- Is suffering from Abuse or Neglect
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the student, such as drug and alcohol or misusing drugs or alcohol themselves

Knowing what to look for is vital and staff need to be able to identify multiple indicators of:

- Bullying (including online and prejudice-based bullying)
- Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults / County Lines (child criminal exploitation, CCE)
- Children and the court system
- Children with family members in prison
- Children missing education
- Children missing from home or care
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Contextualised Safeguarding – at risk or exploitation in situations outside of their families which may cause multiple harms such as CSE, CCE and serious youth violence
- Domestic Abuse
- Drugs/ substance misuse
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith based abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced marriage
- Gangs and youth violence
- Gender based violence / violence against women and girls
- Hate
- Homelessness
- Honour based abuse

- Incel
- Mental health
- Missing children and adults
- Misogyny
- Neglect
- Peer on peer abuse / child on child
- Poor parenting
- Private fostering
- Preventing radicalisation and / or extremist behaviour
- Racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- Relationship / teenage relationship abuse R
- Risks lined to using technology and social media
- Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery)
- Trafficking and modern slavery
- Serious Violence
- Sexual violence and harassment (including child on child and online)
- Upskirting

There is a different legislative and policy base for responding to adults' safeguarding needs. The Care Act 2014 provides a legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system should protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect. However, most of the principles and procedures that apply are the same as those for safeguarding children and young people.

Counter Terrorism and The Prevent Duty

All Further Education and Higher Education providers in relation to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 have a legal duty in the exercise of our functions to have 'due regard' to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. Prevent aims to stop people from being drawn into being involved in violence extremism, supporting or involved in terrorism in all its forms. Prevent works within the non- criminal space, using early engagement to encourage individuals and communities to challenges violent extremist ideologies and behaviours to prevent radicalisation. Prevent also includes work to rehabilitate and reintegrate those who have already engaged in terrorism.

LSVN will uphold the value of "Freedom of Speech" and will monitor external speakers. If there are any concerns they will be reported and actioned accordingly. LSVN will carry out ongoing risk management to ensure all statutory duties are discharged. LSVN Heads of School will monitor the risk management and report to Governors in the annual report.

The DSL is the Single Point of Contact for Prevent. Prevent is one of the four elements of the Contest Strategy, those being Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue

LSVN will work in partnership to understand, and risk manage identified risk (including localised and relevant data), refer cases the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.

The government has defined extremism in the Prevent Duty as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs". This also includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces. LSVN will ensure that risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies are all included within Prevent risk management.

Statutory Guidance Influencing this Policy

- Keeping children safe in education (July 2025)
- Working together to safeguard children (July 2023)
- Prevent duty guidance for LSVN education institutions in England and Wales
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (Prevent Legislation) 2015
- Education Act 1966, 2002 and 2011
- What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused (2015) What to do guidance
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children and schools and colleges 2018
- When to Call the Police, National Police Chiefs' Council When to call the Police
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

Responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection

LSVN and its Board of Governors have a joint responsibility to create a positive culture and ethos where safeguarding is an important part of everyday life in the setting, backed up by training at every level.

We ensure that LSVN has policies and procedures in place in respect of Safeguarding and Child Protection including Prevent. The College is committed to providing the relevant personnel with clear and explicit roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability in safeguarding and child protection.

We therefore ensure that:

All adults, working in or on behalf of LSVN will:

- Demonstrate an understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Maintain and demonstrate a mind set of "it could happen here".
- Do all they can within the capacity of their role, to keep ensure that students are protected from harm.

- Do all they can within the capacity of their role, to ensure that children and young people grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care.
- Do all they can within the capacity of their role, to ensure that students have the best outcomes.
- Report cases of suspected abuse and all other safeguarding concerns to the DSL, DDSL/ Safeguarding team. This will be done as soon as possible using the College's agreed format.
- Monitor all students, particularly those that are deemed vulnerable.
- Report any concerns regarding adult conduct to the Heads of School and the DSL
- All staff, if they have concerns, these should be acted on immediately and should always speak to the DSL as early information sharing is vital in keeping children and other students safe. In exceptional circumstances staff should consider speaking to a member of Children's Social Care to discuss safeguarding concerns if the DSL is not immediately available.
- All staff should be aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, especially section 17 (children in need) and section 47 (a child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm) that may follow a referral, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.

Online Safety

LSVN is committed to keeping students safe online, we therefore ensure that:

- ALL staff and visitors understand that students (in particular children and students with additional needs) can be harmed online via hurtful and abusive messages, enticing them to engage in age-inappropriate conversations, sharing and production of indecent images or encouraging risk taking behaviour.
- Online bullying by students, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through the LSVN Learner Harassment & Bullying Policy
- Department for Education and Police advice is followed where there is a need to search a student for a mobile device.
- When LSVN becomes aware of an online safety issue that has occurred outside of LSVN, it is managed in accordance with the LSVN policies
- Opportunities to teach online safety are embedded into curriculum and enrichment as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- LSVN has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place regarding use of internet whilst at LSVN to safeguard from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.
- We are mindful of the increasing online learning and working environment and the associated risks and challenges.

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation, radicalisation, sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm.

The LSVN approach to online safety empowers LSVN to protect and educate the whole LSVN community in our use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any incident where appropriate. Online Safety is managed within the Safeguarding structure.

Additional information to support LSVN to keep students safe online (including when they are online at home) is provided in Annex C of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

LSVN Principles

LSVN recognises that:

- The welfare of the learner is paramount.
- All learners, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- It is always unacceptable for a learner to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all learners by commitment to practice that protects them.
- Working in partnership with learners and with other agencies is essential in promoting a safe learning environment.
- Responding to the Prevent duty requires particular vigilance in view of the current threat to UK security.

What we will do:

We will ensure our learners are safeguarded by: -

- ensuring that staff have read and understand Part One and Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education
- providing staff and our associates with guidance on procedures they should adopt to minimise the risk of harm to learners and, if they suspect a learner may be experiencing or be at risk of harm, to offer guidance on appropriate action. We have a simple flow chart of the actions we take.
- ensuring that training for staff and associates helps learners to understand how to keep themselves safe from the wide range of harm to which they may be subject.
- ensuring that staff recognise, and can respond appropriately, where abuse is suspected.
- raising the awareness of staff and learners of contextual safeguarding
- being aware of the increased availability of drugs in the contexts in which we work
- publishing to staff and volunteers a Staff Code of Conduct.
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents/carers and learners appropriately.
- ensuring that the Disclosure and Barring Service, in accordance with their guidelines, checks all staff undertaking regulated activity.
- making all new staff and associates aware of our child protection procedures and policies through effective induction and on-going reinforcement training.

- appointing at least two designated persons to enable any concerns to be reported in accordance with our procedures.
- reviewing our policy and good practice at regular intervals
- recruiting staff safely through an effective staff recruitment process

This policy should be considered in conjunction with organisation policies or procedures relating to

- LSVN Equality and Diversity policy
- LSVN Learner Bullying & Harassment policy
- LSVN Social Networking Policy
- LSVN Whistle-blowing policy
- LSVN / VP Programme of induction and training for staff
- LSVN Staff Code of Conduct
- LSVN Code of Conduct - Consultant Lecturers and Guest Speakers
- LSVN Code of Conduct for Learners
- LSVN Code of Conduct - Lecturers
- LSVN Data Protection policy
- LSVN Digital Safeguarding Policy & Acceptable Use Agreement
- LSVN Staff Harassment & Bullying Policy
- LSVN Substance Misuse Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed/Updated Date	Initials	Job Role
20/06/2021 (Review/Update)	JL	Quality Manager
25/02/2022 (Review)	ET	Data & Quality Manager
09.03.2023 (Review)	ET	Data & Quality Manager
11.03.2024 (Review)	ET	Quality Manager
28.08.2024 (Review)	ET	Quality Manager
04.08.2025 (Review)	ET	Quality Manager
17.09.2025 (Review)	ET	Quality Manager
17.02.2026 (Review)	VB	DSL - LSVN

Heads of School Name	Heads of School Signature
Name Valerie Belbin Date 23.2.26	V. Belbin.