

Annex to Safeguarding Policy
COVID-19 changes to our Safeguarding Policy
April 2021

Response to COVID-19

There have been significant changes within our setting and within the UK in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

This annex sets out some of the adjustments 5E Ltd is making in line with the changed arrangements in the 5E Ltd and following advice from government and local agencies. Following the government announcement with regard to the opening of Education Establishments, 5E Ltd site is open to ESOL the learners from 19th April 2021. The remaining learners will continue to be taught remotely, as per the changes that came in to effect from 20th March 2020.

Despite the changes, 5E Ltd's Safeguarding Policy is fundamentally the same: 5E Ltd considers the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults of paramount importance and aims to safeguard and promote their welfare, safety and health by providing an open, caring, responsive and supportive learning environment which responds to needs immediately. 5E Ltd will ensure that all young people and vulnerable adults who access to 5E Ltd facilities, feel safe and will put in place organisation-wide procedures and staff training to achieve this.

Staff should continue to respond to safeguarding concerns and contact the Safeguarding Team on 02088859449/02088859447 in line with our existing 5E Ltd safeguarding policy and procedure. This is for learners that are both accessing the site from 19th April 2021 and for those continuing to access their learning remotely. The safeguarding phone remains in operation and will be answered Monday – Friday: 09.30 – 17:00.

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Vulnerable Groups, LDD Learners (Inclusion)

5E Ltd has contacted all learners within this group and from 15th June there are a small number of learners who will access on-site provision. The organisation risk assessment for opening on 19th April 2021, includes health and safety processes that staff and learners will need to maintain whilst on 5E Ltd premises. It is a requirement that all staff and learners complete this prior to coming back to the respective centre. All learners within this group, have an individual risk assessment detailing how we will ensure their health, safety and wellbeing whilst on site, in conjunction with the organisation risk assessment.

Reporting Arrangements

5E Ltd arrangements continue in line with our Safeguarding Policy. The

Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Sailesh Solanki: saileshsolanki@fivee.co.uk

The Deputy DSL is:

Qudusia Allybuccus: qudusia@fivee.co.uk

The safeguarding 1st line response is 02088859449 – Mob: 07904957799

The DSL contact number is 02088859447 – Mob: 07741271643

5E Ltd's approach ensures the Safeguarding Team and the DSL or a Deputy DSL are always available via telephone during 5E Ltd hours: Monday - Friday 08.30 – 17.00. From the 19th April 2021 a DSL and a member of the safeguarding team will be on site to be able to support and assist with safeguarding referrals. The internal referral process for calling the 1st line response remains the same.

COVID-19 means a need for increased vigilance due to the pressures on services, families and young people, rather than a reduction in our standards.

Where a learner is at risk of significant harm there may be a need to be persistent in referring concerns to the local authority in line with the local authority referral processes.

Out of hours and emergency safeguarding contacts

Life threatening situation:

Phone 999 if a crime is being committed or if a child/young person or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger.

Attendance

5E Ltd is following the [attendance guidance issued by government](#).

Curriculum staff are monitoring and tracking all learners' attendance at online lessons and their engagement with online learning. Where learners are not engaging and curriculum teams are unable to make contact with learners, escalation to safeguarding procedure should be followed.

Increased Risk – Staff Awareness

The pressures on the learners and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty and financial or health anxiety. These aspects should be considered in the setting of any work for the learners to undertake at home (including recognising the impact of online learning – see below). Staff will be aware of the mental health of both the learners informing the safeguarding team and/or the DSLs about any concerns.

Peer on Peer Abuse

We recognise the potential for abuse to occur between young people, especially in the context of an educational institution closure and the increased risk of this being online. Our staff will remain vigilant to the risks with regard to online peer on peer abuse. Learners and staff are to escalate to safeguarding should there be concerns about peer on peer abuse.

Online Risk – Staff

Young people will be using the internet, social media and technology more frequently during this period. 5E Ltd is also using online approaches to deliver teaching, training and support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other online risks and will apply the same child-centred safeguarding practices as when learners are attending 5E Ltd. The organisation; 5E Ltd continues to ensure appropriate filters and monitors are in place and has taken on board the guidance from the 'UK Safer Internet Centre' on safe remote learning and guidance for safer working practice from the 'Safer Recruitment Consortium'. It is extremely important that professional boundaries are maintained during this exceptional period. Learners will have online induction in regards to E- Safety.

Online Risks - Learners

Social networking is hugely popular and even more so in these unprecedented times, as learners may feel cut-off from their friends. 5E Ltd is also delivering online teaching, training and support. Staff will be aware of the signs and signals of cyberbullying and other risks online and apply the same person-centred safeguarding practices as when our learners are on 5E Ltd site.

Allegations or Concerns about Staff

With such new and different working arrangements, young people could be at greater risk of abuse from staff or volunteers. We remind all staff to maintain the view that 'it could happen here' and to immediately report any concern, no matter how small, to the Head of HR or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Any staff or volunteers from outside our setting will complete an induction to ensure they are aware of the risks and know how to take-action if they are concerned.

We have confirmed that arrangements to contact the LADO at the local authority remain unchanged:

Allegations Manager/LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) Haringey, Sarah Roberts, Local Authority Designated Officer Sarah.roberts@haringey.gov.uk Tel: 020 8489 2968

If necessary, 5E Ltd will continue to follow the duty to refer to DBS, any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Restrictions to movement and contact with other people means learners may be more likely to be at risk of mental health problems. Mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem.

The organisation, 5E Ltd, has arranged for all 5E Ltd wellbeing services to operate remotely. The referral process is still active and all existing learners referred to services are still receiving support remotely. From the 19th April 2021, a mental health co-ordinator will be on site in order to be able to support those learners who might require the additional support and guidance. Contact needs to be made with the learners (where relevant) of those learners returning to the centres in order to identify any new changes to their wellbeing as a result of COVID-19 and offer the relevant support.

The following organisations can also provide support:

www.kooth.com – Free online emotional wellbeing and counselling with self-help articles.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/>

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>-Calm Harm App – A phone app providing help for those who use self-harm as a coping strategy.

<https://www.giveusashout.org/about-shout/> Mental Health 24/7 UK crisis text service available for times when people feel they need immediate support.