

LSE SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 These Standards set out the mandatory organisational requirements which support the implementation of the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) for safeguarding children and adults-at-risk and the Prevent Duty.

2. Standards/Requirements

Standard 1: Safeguarding governance, leadership and management

- LSE Council must retain ultimate responsibility for safeguarding oversight and compliance.
- LSE School Management Committee must maintain effective management and governance arrangements to comply with all relevant legislation and external obligations relating to the protection of children and adults-at-risk, and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and must maintain a monitoring and reporting framework for safeguarding. These arrangements must be lawful, proportionate and consistent with [LSE's Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#).
- LSE must maintain a named LSE Strategic Safeguarding Lead (LSE SSL) and LSE Designated Safeguarding Lead (LSE DSL) and named nominated deputies for both roles.

Standard 2: Safeguarding culture

- LSE adopts a survivor-centred approach to its safeguarding work, ensuring that individuals are listened to, treated with dignity and respect, and supported throughout the process.
- The LSE Safeguarding Policy must be reviewed at least every two years (or earlier if there are material changes in legislation, guidance, organisational structure, risk profile or learnings from serious incidents). The LSE Safeguarding Policy, associated documentation and details of the LSE DSL and nominated deputies must be published on the LSE website.
- The LSE Safeguarding Policy must be communicated to staff through School-wide all-staff communication channels. It must be shared with other relevant members of the School community, including relevant volunteers, alumni or Associates by the individual who is the main point of contact for their engagement with LSE¹.
- The safeguarding roles and responsibilities of LSE staff must be set out in the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) and relevant individuals must undertake appropriate training.

Standard 3: Safeguarding reporting and referrals

- There must be appropriate arrangements in place for reporting and recording safeguarding concerns, disclosures and incidents and for reporting and recording of safeguarding allegations relating to staff, students or any other member of the School community.
- Where a concern relates to the LSE DSL, LSE Deputy DSL, or another person within the usual reporting route, or where an actual or perceived conflict of interest exists, there must be an alternative reporting route available.
- When receiving concerns, the LSE DSL (or a Local DSL, named in the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#)) must triage, log and respond to the concern promptly. They must coordinate an appropriate response in partnership with relevant colleagues.

¹ Including, but not limited to, any associated personnel representing or engaged with the School, including external or visiting researchers, contractors, collaborators, community partners, and partner organisations and their staff or sub-contractors.

- Safeguarding concerns potentially meeting the threshold for external referral must be referred to and discussed with the LSE DSL before any external referral is made, except in an emergency situation. Where statutory safeguarding thresholds are met and/or safeguarding duties require external referral, referrals must be made promptly to the relevant agency or organisation² and must be recorded by the LSE DSL (or nominated deputy) in a central safeguarding record.
- LSE must ensure supervision and support mechanisms are available for staff who deal with safeguarding concerns or allegations, where appropriate.

Standard 4: Safeguarding arrangements relating to staff, volunteers and individuals in positions of trust

- The Director of HR must ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure compliance with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the DBS Code of Practice.
- Safeguarding allegations against LSE staff, volunteers or alumni must be handled in line with the staff, student, alumni or other appropriate disciplinary or conduct policy and procedures.
- Appropriate arrangements must be in place to ensure that the School complies with its duty to refer relevant information about staff or volunteers to the DBS and/or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if it considers that an adult has caused, or may present a risk of causing, harm to children or adults-at-risk. The LSE SSL and LSE DSL are responsible for determining when such a referral may be required, in conjunction with the Director of HR (in respect of staff).

Standard 5: Safeguarding information management and data protection

- Central safeguarding records must be retained securely by the LSE DSL and processed as set out in the [LSE Data Protection Policy and procedures](#).
- The School must co-operate with external agencies and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding processes where required, subject to its legal obligations.
- Consent to share information with external organisations should be sought, wherever it is appropriate, although information may be shared without consent where it is lawful, necessary and proportionate, as set out in the [Data Protection Act 2018 \(Schedule 8\)](#).
- Adults are presumed to have capacity to make their own decisions, unless established otherwise. Where capacity is in doubt, decisions must be made in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and its Code of Practice. With respect to adults, a refusal of support or consent to share information will be respected, unless there is a lawful, proportionate basis to act without consent, including, but not limited to, where another person may be at risk or LSE has an overriding legal obligation.

Standard 6: Safeguarding arrangements relating to third parties and external providers

- Where third-party or external providers deliver services on behalf of the School wholly to children or known adults-at-risk³, safeguarding risks must be considered, risk assessed and managed, in line with the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) and associated documentation and the [LSE Risk Policy and procedures](#). Where relevant, individuals leading on the engagement with the third-party or external provider are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding

² This may include, but not be limited to, the Police, relevant Local Authority services or the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

³ These standards use "adult-at-risk" rather than vulnerable adult, reflecting current safeguarding terminology in England. The term recognises that risk arises from a person's circumstances and care and support needs, rather than from inherent vulnerability. In this policy, an adult-at-risk means an adult who meets the safeguarding criteria under the Care Act 2014.

arrangements are included in contracts or written agreements. Where more than one requirement applies, the higher or more protective requirement should be followed.

- Where due diligence checks are being carried out on third parties and external providers, they should include consideration of safeguarding, where relevant.
- Third parties using LSE premises or facilities for activities or events involving children or known adults-at-risk must complete the LSE Third-Party Hirer Safeguarding Assurance checklist in advance of their use. Hirers remain responsible for safeguarding whilst they are using LSE premises or facilities but must notify the LSE DSL of any safeguarding incident occurring on LSE premises, or allegations made about a member of the School community.
- For activities or events led by the LSE Students' Union (LSESU), including LSESU clubs or societies, the [LSESU Safeguarding Policy](#) applies. Where safeguarding matters involve both LSE and LSESU, the DSLs of both organisations must work jointly to address them, in line with the Data Sharing Agreement between LSE and LSESU.

Standard 7: Safeguarding arrangements for children under 18 and adults-at-risk

- Safeguarding risks must be considered, risk assessed and managed during the planning of any LSE-organised events or activities that may involve children under 18 or adults-at-risk, in line with the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) and associated documentation and the [LSE Risk Policy and procedures](#).
- The School must set out specific safeguarding arrangements for LSE students aged under 18 in the [LSE Admissions Policy](#), [LSE Accommodation Policy](#) and the [LSE Safeguarding Procedure for Students aged under 18](#). These must be published online and communicated to relevant offer-holders, students and their parents/legal guardians.

Standard 8: Safeguarding in research

- Potential safeguarding risks in LSE research activities must be considered, risk assessed and managed. This approach should be applied across the entire research lifecycle and include consideration of physical, psychological and social risks, cultural and contextual factors, power imbalances between researchers and participants, and risks arising from research on sensitive topics or in sensitive environments.
- Safeguarding risks must be identified, risk assessed and managed in line with the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#), the [Procedures for Safeguarding in Research and International Activities](#), the [LSE Risk Policy and procedures](#), the [LSE Code of Research Conduct](#), and the [LSE Research Ethics Policy and procedures](#). This should include consideration of risks to research participants and researchers, including those arising from age, care and support needs, location, power imbalance, fieldwork risks, or partner delivery.
- Safeguarding arrangements must be included in contracts or written agreements with research funders or partners, where necessary. Where more than one requirement applies, for example if funders or partners have their own safeguarding policy and procedures, the higher or more protective requirement should be followed. Reporting of all safeguarding concerns, disclosures or allegations involving individuals associated with LSE should still be made using the LSE safeguarding reporting procedure in Appendix 1.

Standard 9: Safeguarding in international activities

- During the planning of all School activities taking place outside of the UK and/or which involve international participants, safeguarding risks must be identified, risk assessed and

managed in line with the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) associated documentation, the [LSE Travel Policy and Procedures](#), the [Procedures for Safeguarding in Research and International Activities](#), and the [LSE Risk Policy and procedures](#). This should include consideration of local legal and safeguarding frameworks, cultural and contextual factors, supervision and staffing arrangements, information sharing and reporting routes, and risks arising from travel, accommodation or third-party partners.

- Safeguarding arrangements must be included in contracts or written agreements with funders or partners of international activities, where necessary. Where more than one requirement applies, for example if funders or partners have their own safeguarding policy and procedures, the higher or more protective requirement should be followed. Reporting of all safeguarding concerns, disclosures or allegations involving individuals associated with LSE should still be made using the LSE safeguarding reporting procedure in Appendix 1.

Standard 10: The Prevent Duty, events and external speaker activities

- The School must maintain appropriate arrangements for the approval and oversight of external speakers, events, and related activity taking place on School premises or under the School's auspices.
- The School must have appropriate arrangements in place for reporting and recording Prevent Duty concerns, which must be published on the LSE website.
- When receiving Prevent Duty-related concerns, the LSE Prevent Lead (or nominated deputy) must triage, log and respond promptly and coordinate an appropriate response. In the context of research and/or fieldwork, Prevent Duty concerns must be assessed by reference to identifiable conduct, context and risk, rather than assumptions arising from the subject matter, viewpoint, location, community or political sensitivity of the work.
- The LSE Prevent Lead (or nominated deputy) must refer any Prevent Duty concern to the LSE President or Deputy President for approval before an external referral is made.

3. Scope

- 3.1 These Standards should be read in conjunction with the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) and its scope. These Standards do not replace the LSE Safeguarding Policy, statutory guidance, professional codes, contractual obligations or the safeguarding arrangements of partner organisations. Where more than one requirement applies, the higher or more protective requirement should be followed.

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1 All members of the School community must treat safeguarding as a shared responsibility and must act in accordance with the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#) and associated documentation. In addition, specific individuals and committees carry additional responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and the Prevent Duty, as set out in the [LSE Safeguarding Policy](#).

5. Compliance and Assurance

- 5.1 Compliance with these Standards will be monitored through proportionate assurance activity led by the LSE SSL, supported by the LSE DSL and School Leaders, including:
- **Policy and Standards review:** The LSE Safeguarding Policy and Standards will be reviewed at least every two years by the School Management Committee (or earlier where there are material changes in legislation, guidance, organisational structure, risk

profile or learnings from serious incidents). Revisions to the Policy must be approved by LSE Council.

- **Assurance reporting:** A bi-annual safeguarding report must be presented to the LSE School Management Committee (or appropriate sub-committee), and an annual safeguarding report must be presented to the LSE Audit Committee and LSE Council. Prevent Duty arrangements must be monitored and reported in line with statutory guidance and regulatory requirements.

6. Supporting/Relevant documents

[Safeguarding Policy and associated documents](#)

[Safeguarding @ LSE webpage](#)

[LSE Ethics Code](#)

[LSE Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy](#)

[LSE Policy on Addressing and Preventing Sexual Misconduct](#)

[LSE Policy and procedures on Personal Relationships](#)

[LSE Risk Policy and procedures](#)

[LSE Research Ethics Policy and procedures](#)

[LSE Code of Research Conduct](#)

[LSE Speak Up \(Whistleblowing\) Policy](#)

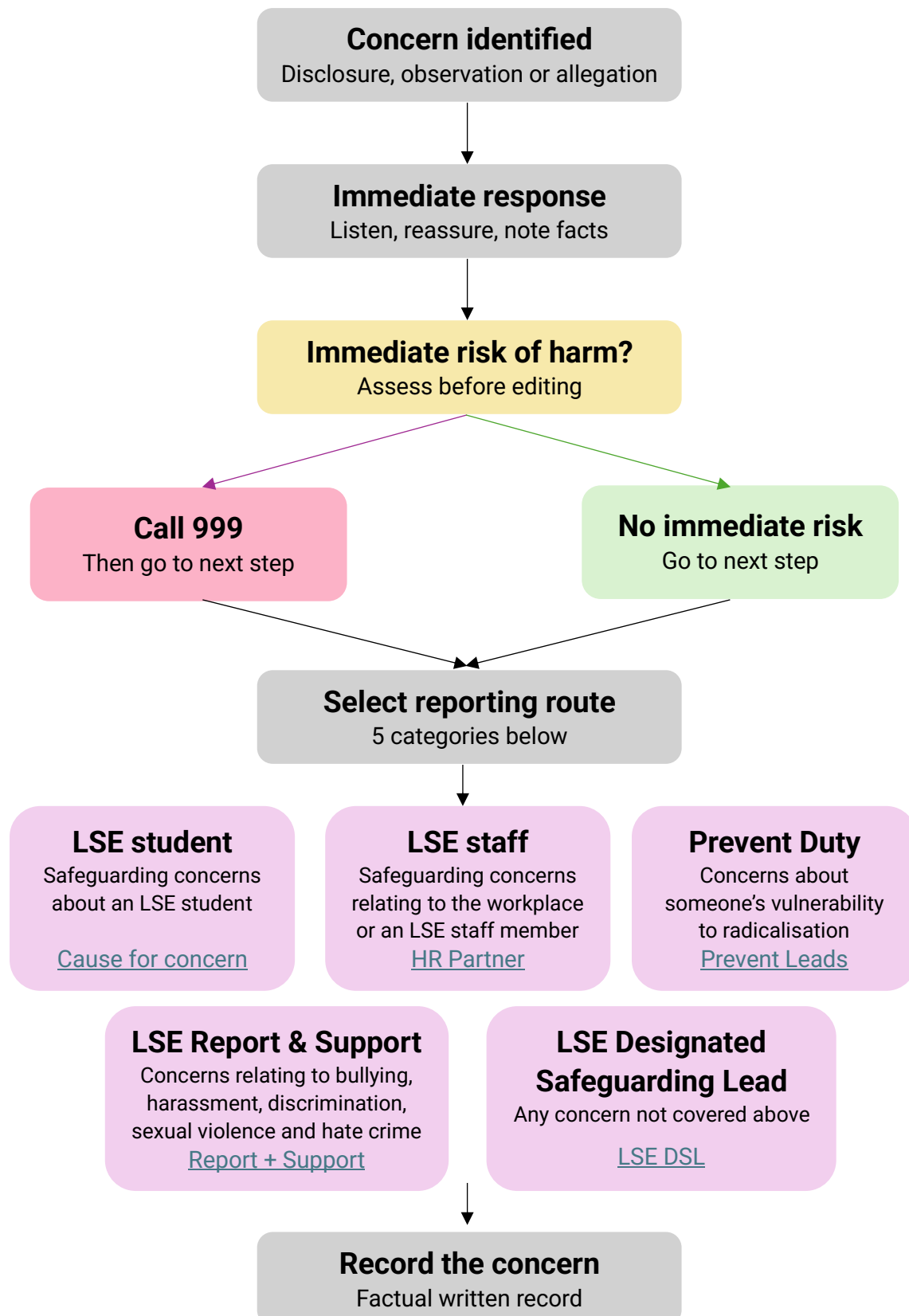
[Spotting the signs of child abuse | NSPCC](#)

[Abuse and neglect of adults | NHS](#)

Appendix 1 – Flowchart for responding to a safeguarding concern, including a disclosure or allegation

Use the flowchart below to identify the right reporting route.

The link in each of the purple boxes will direct you to an online form or provide the contact details of who you need to contact. If you are unsure which route to use, contact the LSE Safeguarding Team - LSE.Safeguarding@lse.ac.uk or 07840 961662.



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