

Annex 1

Safeguarding Definitions

- Child or young person: A person who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.
- Adult at risk: Any individual who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and/or support
- Safeguarding: The protection of children and adults-at-risk from abuse and neglect
- Abuse: Abuse is a violation of human and civil rights by another person. It may be planned or unplanned and there is no exhaustive list of what may constitute abuse or exploitation, but it includes:
 - A single act, of any scale, which causes harm and can be of varying degrees;
 - Repeated acts of a similar or different nature;
 - Intentional or unintentional;
 - An act of neglect or a failure to act on the part of someone who has caring responsibilities;
 - Physical abuse and violence (see the definition of 'Physical abuse');
 - Verbal abuse and insults;
 - Sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
 - Emotional abuse;
 - Financial exploitation;
 - Bullying and harassment;
 - Exposing children / vulnerable adults to inappropriate materials such as pornography, violent films, cruelty;
 - Allowing children / vulnerable adults to be present when others are taking drugs or consuming high levels of alcohol;
 - Preventing children / adults at risk from attending school;
 - Female Genital Mutilation;
 - Domestic abuse
 - Forced marriage;
 - Honour-based violence;
 - Neglectful behaviours such as being intoxicated while performing a care role and a wide range of other issues, such as discrimination or an attempt to isolate someone;
 - Online abuse;
 - Human trafficking;
 - Discriminatory abuse
- Regulated Activity: Regulated activity is work that a barred person must not do. It is defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVGA), which has been amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA). It excludes any activities carried out in the course of family relationships or as part of any personal, non-commercial relationships. ([Regulated activity with children in England and Wales - GOV.UK](#));
- Prevent/Prevent duty: Through the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 all Universities and other Public Authorities are under a legal requirement, or duty, to have 'due regard' to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism;

- Radicalisation: Defined in the Prevent duty guidance as “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups”;
- Terrorism: An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. The terrorist ‘action’ can be that of individuals acting alone or as part of organised or well-trained groups. The Terrorism Act 2006 created a number of ‘offences related to terrorism’, including encouraging terrorism, glorifying terrorism, disseminating terrorist publications, training for terrorism and preparing terrorist acts;
- Extremism: Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:
 - negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
 - undermine, overturn or replace the UK’s system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
 - intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in the above ([New definition of extremism \(2024\) - GOV.UK](#))
- Collaborator: Organisation or individual conducting academic activity on behalf of Keele University e.g. research or innovation projects.

Please find below some more detailed definitions of Abuse which can involve harm that is caused by anyone who has power over another person; which may include family members, friends, unpaid carers, health or social care workers and organisations. The following are recognised forms of abuse:

- Abuse (Physical): may involve hitting, slapping, pushing, shaking, throwing, poisoning, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm, including by fabricating the symptoms of, or deliberately causing, ill health to another;
- Abuse (discriminatory): including discrimination on grounds of race, gender and gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment;
- Abuse (Emotional): including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks and can also be persistent emotional ill-treatment such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person, age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children, causing children frequently to feel frightened, or the exploitation or corruption of children;
- Abuse (Sexual): Involves forcing or enticing a person to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. This may include involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways;

- Abuse (Neglect): The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development, such as failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, or neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs. Including ignoring medical or physical care needs, overuse of medication, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating;
- Abuse (Self Neglect): Failure of an adult to take care of themselves that causes or is reasonably likely to cause within a short period of time, serious physical, mental or emotional harm or substantial damage to or loss of assets;
- Abuse (Financial or Material): May include 'theft, fraud, exploitation, either opportunistically or premeditated, unfairly manipulating someone for profit or personal gain. Coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits' (DoH, 2000, p. 9);
- Abuse (Historic): Abuse which took place in the past. If a student tells a member of staff about historic abuse, this must be referred using the reporting procedure in section
- Abuse (Institutional): Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting like a hospital or care home, for example. This may range from isolated incidents to continuing ill-treatment;
- Abuse (Peer): Abuse carried out by children and young people. This recognises that children, particularly those living away from home, are also vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse by their peers. Such abuse should always be taken as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult;
- Forced / Arranged Marriages: A forced marriage is one in which one or both parties are married without their consent. An arranged marriage becomes a safeguarding concern where the person concerned is a child or is an adult who lacks mental capacity.