



CWM Safer Students Commitment

‘A commitment from CWM’

Student safety has always been a priority for us as strong safeguarding arrangements ensure an environment that is conducive to learning and helps our learners understand how operating and prioritising safety needs to be part of their professional development. As colleges we individually focus on all aspects of student safety. Our Safer Students Charter details our commitment to going beyond this to share resources and practice, develop relationships with key partners across a wider geographical footprint and, through economies of scale, be in a stronger position to secure better resources to support our work.

We are developing a combined calendar of activity that covers the key themes of student safety. This calendar will support a collective approach to ensuring safety across our geographical footprint whilst also being broad enough to allow individual colleges the flexibility to adapt arrangements to their specific and contextualised circumstances.

We will endeavour to share intelligence across the colleges and key partners in a more comprehensive way to support this work including, a detailed report on exclusions that we will update annually as a minimum and share any targeted information termly. We want to be in a stronger position to plan and forecast rather than react to situations after the event.

Themes:

Online Safety

Given that so many activities have moved online due to the pandemic we will prioritise supporting students to be able to stay safe and act responsibly online on all digital platforms including social media, through a planned programme of tutorial activities and events.

Prevention of radicalisation and extremism

Over and above our legal duty in ensuring all members of the college community are aware of the signs of extremist behaviour and how it should be reported, we will support learners to feel confident to challenge extreme views in a safe environment.

Risky behaviours and unsafe activities

Our curriculum and tutorial strategies will alert learners of the risks and consequences of potential unsafe or risky behaviours including sexual activity, substance misuse, driving habits and risk-taking behaviours.

Personal safety including sexual and physical health

We will continue to work with a wide range of agencies to promote public health messages to support health and well-being in a positive non-judgemental environment. We will also reinforce public health messages and demand responsible behaviours.

Crime and fear of crime

Our campuses will continue to provide safe environments for learners and we will always work with all agencies to ensure the threat of crime is responded to robustly and without exception. We will always promote the negative impact of becoming involved in crime to our students.

Equality and Respect

We will collectively promote respectful, inclusive and tolerant environments where students can maintain their identity whilst respecting and celebrating differences regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

Mental and physical health

Mental and Physical health will have a continued focus and we will work with our learners and third party agencies to ensure students are equipped with the knowledge and strategies to maintain healthy and productive lives. This support may be in person or on line through a range of platforms. Mental health fragility is increasing and many anxieties have been compounded by the pandemic.

Student-on-student sexual harassment and sexual violence

We will endeavour to create a culture where student-on-student sexual harassment and violence is not tolerated by working collectively to share good practise across the colleges and broader partners including LAs and LSPs. We will raise awareness with college leadership and governance to support this. For example we will review the RHSE curriculum and training for staff delivering it, collect and act on data, ensure standards are upheld and sanctions taken where necessary.

Exploitation

We will continue to enable learners to recognise the ways in which exploitation and grooming can take place and to develop confidence to report this where they have concerns for themselves and others. To include a wide range of topics including criminal and sexual exploitation and modern slavery.

Staying Safe

We will continue work with parents and other agencies to ensure appropriate and targeted promotion of personal safety when outside of the home and in social situations. To enable learners to recognise domestic abuse including coercion and controlling behaviours, peer on peer abuse, bullying including cyberbullying behaviours. Learners will be supported to develop confidence in reporting incidences and concerns for themselves and others. Colleges are committed to providing ongoing support for all learners including those with high needs and with a focus on those who are most vulnerable.

Honour based abuse and harmful traditional practices

Through our highly effective safeguarding arrangements our learners will have an awareness of issues such as Honour based violence and Female genital mutilation and will always understand how and where to report their concerns about this.

Financial security / safety

We will work with relevant partners to support our learners, particularly adult learners in work in becoming more financially aware and competent. Part of this work will also inform learners of the risks of gambling and other addictions such as compulsive spending

Our commitment, as a group of leading Colleges, will see us continue to focus on all of these areas and playing our significant part in the safety of young people across the West Midlands. We will coordinate our resources to support this important agenda and will continue to ensure that the education and training we deliver places safety at its core.