

MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The College recognises that it has specific legal responsibilities towards students whose mental health condition falls within the definition of disability under the law, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1. This policy applies to all students, including young people and vulnerable adults, as identified below, who participate in any College activities. The College has its own procedures for the maintenance of good order and for safeguarding academic standards which will apply to all students irrespective of their medical condition or specific needs.
- 2.2. However, whilst the College is committed to providing a supportive environment, it is important to recognise that it is not a mental health facility nor is it a therapeutic community. There are, of necessity, limits to the extent of the support which can be provided and it is not the responsibility of the College to replicate services that already exist in the community.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. A “young person” means a person who has attained the age of fourteen and is under the age of eighteen years. (Children and Young Person’s Act 1933)

NB. The Policy only relates to FE and HE students who are over the age of 16. The responsibility for schools’ students remains with that organisation.

Professional Protocols for collaborative and commissioned provision issued by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull 14-19 Quality Partnership states "That the home institution provides / has a statutory duty of care regarding the health, safety and wellbeing of its learners"

- 3.2. Vulnerable adult

The definition of vulnerable adult that applies to this policy is “a person who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.”

- 3.3. Confidentiality

Under the guidelines of the Data Protection Act 1998 and 2018 the College has a responsibility to treat sensitive personal information with confidence. However, should information be received, by an officer of the College, that gives cause for concern, it may consider necessary to share this with appropriate external agencies.

4. Aim

- 4.1. The College aims to provide a supportive environment that will help students with mental health difficulties to realise their full academic potential and to successfully complete their course. It also aims to facilitate and promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

5. Objectives

- 5.1. To operate and monitor the Mental Health Operating Procedure.
- 5.2. To ensure, wherever possible, the safety of students, staff, other persons and the College.
- 5.3. To comply with the Ofsted Commission for Social Care inspection Further Education Residential Accommodation: national minimum standards (2018).
- 5.4. To provide a range of support services, including a Health & Welfare Officer, a counselling service, a Chaplain and a student support service.
- 5.5. To encourage students with mental health difficulties to seek support.
- 5.6. To have in place effective procedures for the disclosure of information in respect to students with mental health difficulties.
- 5.7. To have in place a robust and consistent risk assessment process to plan support for students.
- 5.8. To ensure that the sources of support are clearly communicated to prospective and current students and their families and guardians.
- 5.9. To promote understanding and recognition of mental health difficulties.
- 5.10. To provide guidance, support and training to staff who are involved in the support and care of those with mental health difficulties.
- 5.11. To ensure regular monitoring of vulnerable students who may fall within the range of having a mental health condition.

6. Implementation

- 6.1. The Assistant Principal Campus and Residential Services, as a member of the Senior Leadership Group, will ensure commitment to this policy and the effective, confidential and sensitive operation of the associated procedure.
- 6.2. The Student Support Coordinator and Health and Welfare Officer will monitor day to day compliance with the policy and the recording of disclosed information.

7. Method of Monitoring

7.1. As 6

7.2. **Authorship:** Assistant Principal Campus and Residential Services

7.3. **Date:** December 2020

7.4. **Reviewing Officers:** Student Services Manager