NON-RECENT ABUSE PROCEDURE

1. Purpose

1.1 This policy outlines the College's response and procedures for managing disclosures or allegations of **non-recent (historical) abuse**.

2. Definition

2.1 **Non-recent abuse** refers to allegations of neglect, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse made by or on behalf of someone who is now an adult (18+), regarding incidents from their childhood.

2.2 Such allegations may come many years later for several reasons, including:

- fear of reprisals
- the control or influence of the abuser
- shame, guilt or fear of disbelief
- learning that the perpetrator is under investigation
- concern that other children may now be at risk

3. Principles for Responding to Non-Recent Abuse

3.1 The College's response must meet the same high standard applied to current concerns of child abuse because:

- Individuals who abused children in the past may continue to pose a risk
- The alleged perpetrator may currently work with or have access to children
- Criminal prosecutions can still occur regardless of how long ago the abuse took place

3.2 Reports of non-recent abuse should be referred to the Principal (or the person acting in that capacity) at the earliest opportunity. The Principal may, at their discretion, delegate a member of the senior leadership team to handle the report. The Chair of the Board of Directors and the Designated Director for Safeguarding should also be informed at the earliest opportunity.

3.3 Arrangements should be made, with the agreement of the complainant, for minutes of any meeting to be recorded by a third member of staff, wherever possible.

4. Immediate Actions When an Adult Discloses Non-Recent Abuse

4.1 A copy of this procedure should be provided directly to the individual at the point they make a report of non-recent abuse.

4.2 When it becomes clear that an adult is disclosing childhood abuse, staff must: **Record the disclosure accurately**, including:

- what the person said
- questions or responses from the staff member
- a clear, dated chronology
- the author's name and signature

4.3 **Ask whether they would like a Police investigation.**

- Reassure them that the Police can and do investigate non-recent abuse
- Inform them that the College has a duty to report alleged abuse, including the name(s) of any alleged perpetrators to the Police and MASH
- Inform them that the College will not identify them to the Police if they do not wish this to happen, except where there is a risk of harm to a child, or other third party, if they are not identified
- Inform them that even if the victim does not wish to pursue an investigation, the Police may, nevertheless, act in the public interest

4.4 **Inform the individual** that if the alleged abuser currently has access to children, a referral will be made to Children's Social Care.

4.5 **Establish, where possible**, whether the adult knows the current whereabouts or occupation of the alleged perpetrator, particularly whether they have contact with children.

5. Information to Establish Where Appropriate

5.1 The person receiving the report should sensitively try to obtain:

- the name(s) of the alleged abusers
- the date(s) of birth or approximate age(s) of the alleged abusers
- the current address or whereabouts of the alleged abusers
- the current occupation of the alleged abusers
- the location(s) where the alleged abuse occurred
- the year(s) when the alleged abuse occurred and its duration
- any known children who may currently be at risk

5.2 **Important:** The adult may decline to provide details, including names, due to fear for their safety or emotional distress. Direct questioning about the abuse itself must be avoided. Allow the person to recall events freely without asking leading or probing questions.

6. Police Notification

6.1 Guernsey Police must be informed of any allegations of criminal behaviour as early as possible. Action to be taken by the Principal, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Safeguarding Coordinator.

6.2 This can be done by calling the Guernsey Police on 01481 222222 and selecting the Public Protection Unit (PPU) - a specialised team of detectives within the PPU deal with a range of serious and complex crime and are actively involved in safeguarding within the community. Alternatively, call 999 in any emergency.

6.3 It should be made clear that whether Police investigate depends on:

- the wishes of the victim
- safeguarding considerations
- public interest
- jurisdiction (if abuse occurred outside Guernsey, another force may take over)

7. Data Protection and Information Sharing

7.1 In addition to the duties to disclose set out above, the College may, confidentially and sensitively, need to share personal data relating to a report of non-recent abuse with an internal or external reviewer. Should this be the case this will be discussed with the person who has made the disclosure.

8. Support for the Adult Disclosing Abuse

8.1 Consideration for the therapeutic and emotional needs of the adult making the report or disclosure should be given. Reassure them that:

- their disclosure is taken seriously
- action will be taken to safeguard others, as required
- reasonable efforts will be made to look into their concerns, even if they do not wish to be directly involved

8.2 It may also be helpful to offer details of the following organisations, all of which will be able to offer support and advice to survivors of non-recent abuse:

- RASCAT – Recovering Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse and Trauma;
- no2abuse.com – A survivor's site includes forum, chat room and information;
- Help for Adult Victims of Child Abuse (HAVOCA);
- National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC);
- Support for Survivors.