HOMERTON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Receiving disclosures concerning Harassment and Sexual Violence

Homerton stands squarely with students in a determination to work to mitigate incidents of sexual violence and harassment, to empathise with and support victims, and to provide an effective process when incidents are disclosed or reported. We acknowledge and are actively concerned about the levels of harassment and sexual violence experienced by students in the UK and in Cambridge.

Tutors are required to engage with **training** in order to be equipped to **support** students who have experienced harassment and sexual violence and to **signpost** effectively to further support and action both inside and outside the College.

Training:

Homerton will offer training for Tutors annually. This will usually take the place of a Tutor Meeting and occasionally we will offer longer training opportunities or invite Tutors to sign up for University training. Tutors are required to ensure that they have engaged with training in receiving disclosures and supporting students once every two years.

Support:

As Tutors, receiving disclosures sensitively with empathy and discretion is key. However, a student may value on-going support, alongside (and perhaps instead of) further professional assistance. Please do consult the university webpage for advice: Advice for supporters | Student Support (cam.ac.uk). Please note in particular the comments on confidentiality and student agency.

In brief:

- **Assess** whether there is immediate risk (of further attack or in relation to injury which requires medical attention). In these cases, call 999 and notify the Porter's Lodge.

If there is no immediate threat or risk:

- **Believe** what they are saying. This is their perceived experience they are entrusting to you.
- **Listen**. What the victim-survivor will require is sensitive attention and a willingness to hear. They need a safe, non-judgemental space to talk.
- **Allow** the student to retain **agency** – and ask whether they would like you to support them in taking further action or whether they simply wish to talk.

- **Assure** them that your support is not time limited – they can come back and ask for further action/support at a later point if this is their preference
- **Keep** careful, discrete **notes** (*see the relevant recording document*). These should be confirmed with the student following your meeting.
- **Log** your notes with the Safeguarding Coordinator (Grace Hernández) – they will be kept confidentially and will not be acted upon without the reporting student's consent.
- **Signpost** with reference to further support and reporting options.

Signposting:

Further support and avenues to action are available both in College and within the University, as well as via charities and public services. Students can choose to**:**

- **Consult** the University specialist advice service: Harassment and violence support | Student Support (cam.ac.uk)
- **Report** within College. This would be managed by the Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy Senior Tutor, with Tutor support, and an outcome might be a 'Mutual Behavioural Agreement'.
- **Report** within the University (OSCCA) Report inappropriate behaviour of other students or staff | Student Complaints (cam.ac.uk) ('informal' and 'formal' options are available)
- **Report** to the police Reporting to the police – Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre | Support for survivors of sexual violence

Further help in College:

- The College Discrimination and Harassment Contacts (for 2024-2025: Priscilla Day-Walsh, Helen Demetriou and Junius Olivier College Discrimination and Harassment Contacts & Support (cam.ac.uk)
- The Wellbeing Lead is able to advise and support with Formal Complaints related to staff members (wellbeing@homerton.cam.ac.uk)
- Debbie Ellis, Community Health Advisor (nurse@homerton.cam.ac.uk)
- Deputy Senior Tutor (Wellbeing)

Further help outside College:

Local support in and around Cambridge

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre is a helpline service run by women, for women and girls who have survived or are currently experiencing sexual violence. The helpline is also open for family, friends and professionals who are supporting a survivor. Cambridge Rape Crisis also offer a call back service. Tel: 01223 245888 (Wednesdays 7.00pm - 9.30pm, Sundays 10:00am - 12:30pm). Email Support Service: support@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk (expect a reply in 2-7 days). Website (with live chat available on Tuesdays 12pm-1.30pm): https://cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk

The Elms SARC Centre at Hinchingbrooke is the Sexual Assault Referral Centre covering Cambridgeshire. They provide support as well as emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and STI testing, and can guide you through police reporting procedures. They have a helpline at 0330 223 0099. Email via theelms.sarc@nhs.net and website here: https://www.theelmssarc.org.

Choices Counselling offers a confidential counselling service in Cambridge and surrounding areas for women and men whose lives are affected by childhood sexual abuse. Tel: 01223 358149 (24hr answerphone), email: admin@choicescounselling.co.uk and website: https://www.choicescounselling.co.uk.

The **NHS** also provides information and advice on help and support after sexual assault. See: **https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/help-after-rape-and-sexual-assault/.**

Cambridge Police offer advice and support online here: https://www.cambs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rsa/rape-and-sexual-assault/support-for-victims-of-rape-and-sexual-assault/.

SupportLine provide information and temporary support for any victim, and have a hotline available at **01708 765200** (hours vary)**,** email: info@supportline.org.uk, website: https://www.supportline.org.uk/problems/rape-and-sexual-assault/**.**

National Support

The Havens are a network based in London who can help you support a friend who has been a victim of sexual assault. They have a 24/7 helpline at **020 3299 6900 and website here:** https://www.thehavens.org.uk.

Women's Aid are a support network for abuse against women and children in the UK. They have a live chat service via their website as well as a Forum. Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk or see their website: https://www.womensaid.org.uk.

Victim Support are a support network for victims of crime in the UK, and have a page dedicated to victims of sexual assault and rape. They have a 24/7 helpline at 0808 1689111 and a live chat service on their website: **https://www.victimsupport.org.uk.**

The Survivors Trust is an umbrella organisation for agencies that support women, men and children. They can provide you with information on support available and procedures, and have a helpline available at **0808 801 0818,** email: helpline@thesurvivorstrust.org or website: https://www.thesurvivorstrust.org.