

Safeguarding Bulletin

Hugh Baird
COLLEGE



This month's bulletin is aimed to support anyone affected by the Manchester Arena attack. The college are aware that our students and staff, and their friends and family may be affected by the tragedy and we extend our support to you in this time of fear and uncertainty.

The Pod is staffed by a team of highly trained staff who can help you to talk through your thoughts and feelings. We have two counsellors, a chaplain, a Health and Wellbeing Coordinator and our Retention & Progression Coordinators will give you a quiet space should you need to be alone or talk to someone who will support you with any distress you may feel. Please make use of the services available; we are here to listen and support you at this time of great sadness. Equally, should you need a quiet space for prayer or contemplation, on the fourth floor, we have our Prayer Room, ask in the Pod if you need directions.

Due to the nature of this event, the country's threat level was briefly increased from 'severe' to 'critical'. It has since been lowered to 'severe' again but what does this actually mean? The warning system assesses levels of risk and informs government how to respond. Threat levels change all the time on the basis of events in our own country and those that happen across the world.

In relation to our local community, Merseyside Police's Chief Constable Andy Cooke said: *"I understand this attack will feel very close to home for many local people who will understandably be worried. I would like to reassure everyone in Merseyside that their safety is paramount and there is currently no specific threat to any particular locations or areas here. Police officers will, as always, be asked to be vigilant and we will maintain a visible presence in and around key locations."*

Be vigilant. If you suspect it, report it. We would encourage you, if you do see any suspicious activity, to call the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 or call police on 101 immediately. Please remember that there is support available for you to access, drop in to the Pod at any time.