



Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales





# **Safeguarding Approach**

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www.uwtsd.ac.uk

The University's Overall Approach is outlined in the University's **Safeguarding Policy**.

The Key features of our approach are that:

- It responds directly to national legislation in Wales and England.
- It covers both children and vulnerable adults.
- Safeguarding is a collective responsibility.
- Clear reporting routes, central triage and escalation. (Risk)
- Safeguarding Officers lead in key departments and report into a central Forum.
- The menu of support available includes: wellbeing; counselling; financial support; specialist mentoring; referral to statutory bodies and/or specialist organisations.
- It reinforces and is under-pinned by relevant University Policies, including:

Data Protection (and Information Sharing); Admissions Policy (including Criminal Convictions processes); Student Disciplinary Policy; Harassment and Bullying Policy; Support to Study Policy; Preventrelated Policies.





# Safeguarding Approach

Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales The supplementary policies include the detail which allow the University to take action on safeguarding issues:

In particular in relation to:

- Use of emergency contact information
- Consent to share
- Disclosure response
- Student behaviour / Code of Conduct information
- Admissions
- Criminal conviction disclosure





# Safeguarding Approach

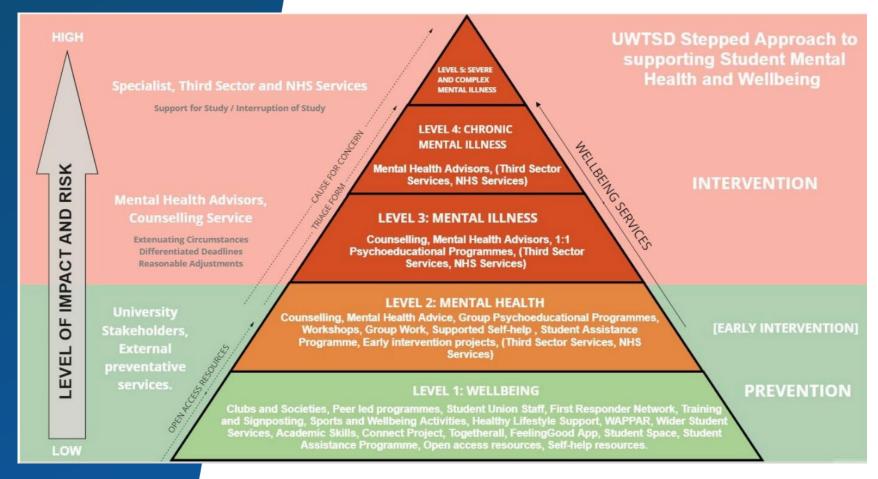
Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales The policy outlines a number of responsibilities and approaches for collaborative partnerships:

- Submission of safeguarding policies at the approval stage
- Admissions policies which reflect current legislation, including in respect to Criminal Convictions.
- Key information kept up-to-date
- Use of the University's Placement Protocol for any students on placements
- Use of the University's Code of Practise for Postgrad research Degrees, including specific protocols for Ethics approval.
- Commitment to report safeguarding issues as they arise to the relevant Partnership team Leader.





## **Student Wellbeing**

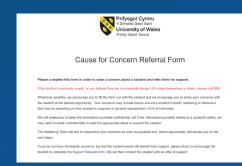


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#### **Wellbeing Advisory Service:**

- Assessment
- Triage
- Action-Plan
- Referral

#### Two routes in:

- Student completes the Support Request form:
  <u>UWTSD Wellbeing Service (uniticms.com)</u>
- Anyone can complete a Cause for Concern form:
  <u>UWTSD Wellbeing Service (uniticms.com)</u>









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### **Counselling Service:**

- Referral from triage
- Not a crisis service
- Focused work on specific issues

### **Mental Health Mentoring:**

- Assistance with managing ongoing or emerging conditions
- Aimed at assisting students in academic and social progress





# Services UWTSD offers to students

Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales **Self-help / Self-Management Resources:** 

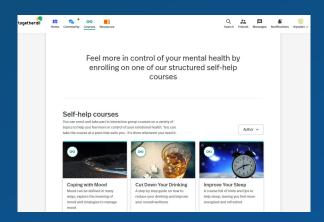
**Student Assistance Programme, 0800 028 3766** 

-24/7 Helpline for Students to call

- Support available on a wide range of issues:
  Finance/Money; Accommodation; Rights; Contracts;
  Employment; Bereavement; Wellbeing
- Trained advisors available, including mental health professionals
- Will take calls from staff who are dealing with students in crisis
- Also an app 'MyHA' which staff can download and use; includes mini health checks and lots of wellbeing resources.







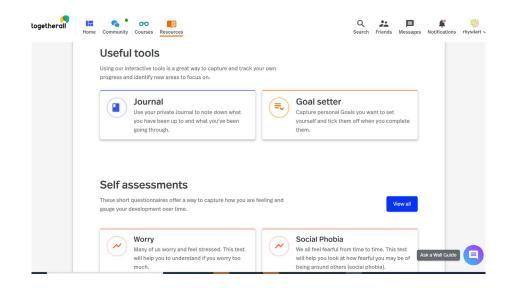
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## **Self-help / Self-Management Resources:**

#### **Together All**

- Available to all staff and students
- Wellbeing online community
- Courses, tools and self-assessments
- Moderated message board







Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales **Self-help / Self-Management Resources:** 

**Feeling Good App** 

Feeling Good App for UWTSD – Feeling Good

- Audio based, mind training programme
- Recommended by NHS
- Mood-tracker & Positive Mental Thinking skills training

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# **Skills Development**

Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales Commitment made in the University's Health and Wellbeing Strategy to increase positive mental health literacy throughout the University.

Recognition that student-facing teams are likely to come into contact with students with poor mental health, or in crisis.

Programme of training available via Student Services:

- Mental Health First Aid
- ASIST suicide prevention
- SafeTalk suicide alertness





# **Skills Development**

Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales Training is offered not because there is an expectation that staff will personally deal with students in crisis, or suicide intervention.

Rather so that staff have the skills and confidence in the event of a situation arising.





## **Common themes**

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#### Currently UWTSD common safeguarding themes are:

- Financial crisis, cost of living pressures
- Domestic violence
- Harassment, Sexual harassment and bullying
- Anxiety & Depression
- Psychosis
- Suicidal Ideation

#### Nationally, themes include:

- Growth of right-wing ideologies & extremism
- County Lines activity (drugs)





# Recent sector developments

Man Geni Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru Where Higher Education Began in Wales There have been a series of high-profile cases within UK HE related to student additional needs disclosure, speed of institutional response, decision-making and information sharing.

There is also updated UUK guidance related to needs disclosure, which recommends that providers:

- Implement <u>a checklist</u> to better support students undertaking placement activity.
- Adopt a <u>proactive response and clear policies</u> around sharing information with trusted contacts.