Role of Departmental Ethics Officers

The Departmental Ethics Officer (DEO) works closely with the relevant Research Ethics Sub-Committee. The University has five Research Ethics Sub-Committees which are set up to review ethics projects from staff and students:

The five Ethics Sub-Committees are:

- Psychology
- Medicine and Biological Sciences
- Media and Communication and School of Management
- Science and Engineering and Arts, Humanities and Law
- Sociology, Politics and International Relations, Lifelong Learning, Criminology, Economics and the School of Education

The Departmental Ethics Officer may be appointed a member of the Ethics Sub-Committee or may act as Departmental Ethics Officer but not be a member of the Ethics Sub-Committee.

The Departmental Ethics Officer should be a research active member of academic staff with at least three years’ post-probationary experience.

Details of membership of the Research Ethics Sub-Committees and current Departmental Ethics Officers can be found: www.le.ac.uk/ethics

The Departmental Ethics Officer’s roles include:

- Advising departmental staff with regard to research ethics issues (students and postgraduates should students should primarily be advised by their supervisor);
- Ensuring that students and postgraduates within their Department are explicitly informed of ethical principles at undergraduate, Master’s, and research degree levels;
• Sign posting staff and students towards the on-line ethics review process if a project requires ethics review (https://ethicsapp.le.ac.uk);

• Raising with the Ethics Sub-Committee via the Chair any training or development needs related to ethical issues and approval procedures;

• Review ethics applications for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching students projects considered as more than minimal risk by the authorizing supervisor. If DEO considers application to constitute more than minimal risk, escalate application to Ethics sub-Committee for further review.

• Providing advice in cases where conflicts of interest or other ethical issues arise during the design or conduct of research projects;

• Liaising with the Chair of the Ethics Sub-Committee, when necessary.

1 May 2015
Prof Monica Whitty, Chair, University Research Ethics Committee
Brian Berry, Secretary