

Emotional Wellbeing for Life

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of the Policy Statement

Catchpoint Consultancy CIC works with children and families as a core part of its activities. We are an Ofsted registered post adoption support organisation, working with children who have experienced early and complex trauma, and the families they live with. Our trained therapists offer a range of therapeutic interventions for children and families that focus on trauma recovery and building positive attachments.

The purpose of the policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive Catchpoint's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This Policy Statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Catchpoint, including senior manager and the board of directors, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A key summary of the guidance and legislation is available from www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated child protection / safeguarding lead, a deputy child protection / safeguarding lead and a lead director / board member for safeguarding
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents and families and carers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal with any bullying that does arise
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory practice
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely

Related Policies and Procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures including:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child or young person
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment policy and procedures
- Adult to child staff supervision ratios
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse
- Photography and image sharing guidance
- Child protection records retention and storage policy
- Whistleblowing policy

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Contact Details

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NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice **annually**.

This policy was last reviewed in May 2021.

Signed:



Date 27 May 2021