

Safeguarding Policy

C.H.A.S.E. (Create Hope And Safe Environments)

1. Introduction

C.H.A.S.E. is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children, young adults, parents, carers, and staff who engage with our services. We believe that everyone has the right to be protected from harm, abuse, and neglect, and we are dedicated to providing a secure, supportive, and inclusive environment.

2. Policy Statement

C.H.A.S.E. recognizes its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all individuals accessing our services. We will take all necessary steps to create a safe and inclusive space where individuals feel valued, respected, and protected.

We will:

- Ensure that safeguarding is a fundamental part of our culture and practice.
 - Provide training and support for staff and volunteers on safeguarding policies and procedures.
 - Maintain clear reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns.
 - Work collaboratively with relevant authorities where necessary.
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3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, trustees, and any individuals involved in delivering or supporting C.H.A.S.E. services. It covers all interactions, including in-person, online, and telephone-based support.

4. Safeguarding Responsibilities

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Responsible for overseeing all safeguarding matters, ensuring compliance, and acting as the main point of contact for concerns.
 - **Staff and Volunteers:** Expected to adhere to safeguarding policies, complete mandatory training, and report concerns promptly.
 - **Parents and Carers:** Encouraged to engage with safeguarding measures and communicate any concerns.
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5. Recognizing and Reporting Concerns

We recognize that abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect. All concerns, suspicions, or disclosures must be reported immediately to the DSL or an appropriate authority.

Reporting Procedure:

1. Any safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL.
 2. The DSL will assess the concern and take appropriate action, including involving external safeguarding agencies if required.
 3. All concerns and actions taken will be documented and stored securely.
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6. Safe Recruitment and Training

C.H.A.S.E. will ensure that all staff and volunteers:

- Undergo background checks (DBS or equivalent).
 - Receive safeguarding induction training upon joining.
 - Participate in regular refresher training to stay informed of best practices.
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7. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

All safeguarding concerns will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. Information will only be shared with relevant parties on a need-to-know basis in line with legal and ethical obligations.

8. Code of Conduct

All staff and volunteers must adhere to the following:

- Treat all individuals with respect and dignity.
 - Avoid inappropriate language or behaviour.
 - Never engage in personal relationships with service users.
 - Maintain professional boundaries at all times.
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9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, best practices, and organisational needs.

Last Reviewed: [20/02/2025]

Next Review Due: [20/02/26]

Signed:

jamie ward
