



## **SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**The purpose and scope of this policy statement:**

**To provide a dedicated service for young people, adults, families, professionals and organisations that promotes understanding, awareness, and education to the consequences of Substance Misuse, Volatile Substance Misuse & County Lines (trafficking drugs into rural areas and smaller towns, away from major cities). Working towards the prevention of related deaths, illness, accidents, crimes and the impact such misuse has on the family and community, enabling a safer, stronger and healthier environment.**

**To provide confidential information, support, counselling & mental health first aid services to all those affected by such misuse.**

**To provide all such services, free of charge, to children, young people and families including those affected by such misuse.**

**To actively encourage the participation of children and young people in all areas of our service provision.**

**The purpose of this policy statement is:**

- to protect children and young people who receive Evolves services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Evolve, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England & Wales. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](http://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 children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to 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
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding. Ensuring that safeguarding training and refresher training will be undertaken by our staff & volunteers every 3 years
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: [ico.org.uk/fororganisations](http://ico.org.uk/fororganisations)]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions

- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately • creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that 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 guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people, and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns

#### **Reporting Procedures: REPORT WITHIN 24 HOURS**

- **STEP ONE** - service user makes a disclosure to a member of the team (organisational staff, volunteer or paid staff)
- The team member records the nature and details of the disclosure by completing a Safeguarding/Disclosure form
- **STEP TWO** - the 'disclosed to' member of staff immediately reports the disclosure to the safeguarding lead for advice and an immediate response
- **STEP THREE** - the safeguarding lead assesses the disclosure and responds accordingly within the next 48 hours. Details added to the Safeguarding/Disclosure form
- **STEP FOUR** - Report actions are discussed between the reporting person and the safeguarding lead, agreed, and shared with relevant person, and the service user and signed off by safeguarding lead. The effectiveness of the actions is reviewed at a later date in a planned review meeting. Details added to the Safeguarding/Disclosure form

#### **In Summary**

- ✓ Service user discloses to any member of staff
- ✓ That member of staff takes first line advice from the safeguarding lead as an immediate response may be required, which may involve contacting the police
- ✓ The member of staff disclosed to, also completes a Safeguarding/Disclosure report within 48 hours of the disclosure occurring,
- ✓ This completed report is forwarded to our organisation's lead safeguarding reporting officer who will follow up regarding any first line advice and support given and any additional actions that need to be taken

**Signs Of Abuse:**

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger, for example via the Internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

**Physical abuse:**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse:**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development:

It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving children opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age- or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Sexual abuse:**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect:**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

Provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).

Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.

Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers).

Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional need.

**Organised or Multiple Abuse:**

Organised or multiple abuse involves:

- Abuse involving one or more abusers and a number of related or unrelated abused children and young people.
- In some cases, the abusers concerned are acting in concert to abuse children, sometimes acting in isolation, or they may be using an institutional framework or position of authority to recruit children for abuse.
- Organised and multiple abuse occur both as part of a network of abuse across family or community and within institutions such as residential homes or schools. Such abuse is profoundly traumatic for the children who become involved. Its investigation is time-consuming and demanding work requiring specialist skills from both police and social work staff.

**Psychological Abuse:**

- This includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, restriction of lifestyle and contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation.

**Financial or Material Abuse:**

- Includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property inheritance or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

**Neglect or Acts of Omission:**

- Includes ignoring medical or physical care, failure to provide appropriate health, social care, the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, heating, adequate nutrition.

**Discriminatory Abuse and Hate Crime:**

- Treating a person in a way which does not respect their race, religion, age, gender, disability, culture, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

#### **Institutional Abuse:**

- Where routines and rules make a person alter their lifestyle and culture to fit in with the institution. The collective failure of an organisation to provide appropriate care and services to vulnerable individuals.

#### **Extremism:**

- Where you suspect someone is either involved in terrorist activity or vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. This includes suspicious on-line activity.

#### **Domestic Abuse/Violence:**

- Domestic Violence involves harm done to a person by another with whom that person has been, or still is, in a close relationship.
- The use of behaviour designed to misuse power and exercise control.

Domestic violence can lead to physical, sexual, financial, psychological, verbal, and emotional abuse within the living environment.

#### **Contact Details:**

Nominated Child Protection Lead

**Name:** Alison Hodgson

**Phone/email:** 07449477737 [evolve.ah@outlook.com](mailto:evolve.ah@outlook.com)

Deputy Child Protection Lead

**Name:** Esther Maple

**Phone/email:** 07743688507 [em@wirralgirls.co.uk](mailto:em@wirralgirls.co.uk)

Trustee Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection

**Name:** Nancy Boyle

**Phone/email:** 07804125548 [nancy.boyle@ymail.com](mailto:nancy.boyle@ymail.com)

## **DBS**

All staff/volunteers who have regular contact with young people are DBS checked every 3 years. We request that all relevant staff are subject to a DBS check to make sure that there has been no criminal behaviour related to children in their past.

Any member of staff or volunteer that is in regular, unsupervised contact with children is required to apply for an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check. Any role that is classified as a “regulated activity” by the DBS will require this level of check, as required by law in Section 11 of the Children Act of 2004.

The Enhanced DBS Check with Barred List will search an individual’s criminal record, highlighting any spent or unspent convictions, warnings, cautions, and reprimands, as well as any relevant police notes and a check against the DBS barred list.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy was last reviewed on: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Signed: 

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

There have been no reported incidents in the last year.

## **References, internet links and further sources of information**

Working together to Safeguard Children – (A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.) Available to download at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused. Available to download at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

## **Internet Links**

[www.everychildmatters.org.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.org.uk)

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.ceop.gov.uk/reportabuse/index.asp](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/reportabuse/index.asp)

### **For Children and Young People**

[www.there4me.com](http://www.there4me.com)

[www.childline.org.uk/pages/yourplace.aspx](http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/yourplace.aspx)

### **Contacts**

#### **NSPCC 24 hours 7 days per week 0808 800 5000**

NSPCC means the National Society for the Prevention of Child Cruelty. It is a registered charity that advocates for the rights of children to protect them from all forms of cruelty.

#### **Childline 24 hours 7 days per week 0800 1111**

ChildLine is a free 24-hour counselling service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday in the UK provided by the NSPCC.

#### **Family Lives: 0808 8002 222**

Family Lives offers a confidential help line service, which is free from landlines and most mobiles (previously known as Parentline). Please call above for information, advice, guidance, and support on any aspect of parenting and family life, including bullying. Family Lives support staff take calls from 7am – Midnight.

#### **Samaritans UK: 08457 90 90 90**

The Samaritans who are available to offer emotional support 24/7 talk to them at any time they like, in their own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to them.

#### **LOCAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD - [Safeguarding - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)**

**Liverpool Social Services (Careline) 0151 233 3800**

**Wirral Integrated Front Door 0151 606 2008 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday**

**Outside of these hours call 0151 677 6557**

**Cheshire East Safeguarding - Phone 0300 123 5012 (8.30am till 5pm, option 3) or Out of Hours 0300 123 5022**

**Report a Child Safeguarding concern - ChECS on 0300 123 5012 (option 3)**

**Out of Hours 0300 123 5022**



**LADO 01606 288931 - allegations against members of staff**

**In an emergency always dial 999**