

## Safeguarding Policy

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Safeguarding Policy Statement

Children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse and harm. Our aim is to improve the wellbeing and welfare of our clients, many of whom are vulnerable due to multiple adverse events, traumatic life experiences and homelessness. The safeguarding of our **clients is therefore a core value of our organisation and is paramount in our own work with clients as well as** when we are working with partners.

We will ensure that the safety of our clients and our partner's clients are considered at all times whether this is in service design, delivery or evaluation. Any concerns will be discussed within our own team, with clinical supervisors, and with partners. When it is necessary, we will report safeguarding concerns to the local Safeguarding Boards or Social Care professionals.

### Safeguarding Legislation in England

Safeguarding is the preventive and precautionary approach to planning and procedures needed to protect individuals from any potential harm and deal with issues when they arise. All organisations owe a duty of care to employees, volunteers, service users and others they come into contact with. Safeguarding duties apply to both statutory and voluntary organisations and come from legislation, statutory and non-statutory guidance and are also outlined in [Charity Commission England and Wales guidance](#). In respect of children, the key statutory guidance is '[Working together to safeguard children](#)', March 2015 (to be updated in 2018). In respect of vulnerable adults, the key statutory guidance is '[Care and support statutory guidance](#)', 17 August 2017.

The [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) (SVGA 2006) was introduced to help avoid harm, or the risk of harm, by preventing people who are deemed unsuitable to work with **children** and **vulnerable adults** from gaining access to them through their work.

Every child and vulnerable adult has the right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The SVGA 2006 places legal obligations on organisations to:

- safeguard children and vulnerable adults
- promote their welfare
- conduct additional checks (criminal record checks – see below for further information) on employees and volunteers who are carrying out certain activities

Office Address: 17 Woodland Road, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7DR  
An Unincorporated Community Association with application for charitable status in progress (ref: 5171845)

ParentSupport@YouthMentalHealthFoundation.org |  
[www.YouthMentalHealthFoundation.org](http://www.YouthMentalHealthFoundation.org)

- communicate concerns to relevant local agencies.<sup>1</sup>

From 29 June 2018, local safeguarding children's boards (LSCBs) have been replaced by safeguarding partners, who are responsible for child protection policy, procedure and guidance at a local level.

Three statutory safeguarding partners lead the local safeguarding arrangements:

- the local authority (Devon County Council)
- the clinical commissioning group (Devon Clinical Commissioning Groups)
- the police (Devon and Cornwall Police)

Weblinks:

- [Devon Children and Families Partnership](#)
- [Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership](#)

Working together with other relevant agencies, they must co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of work to protect and promote the welfare of children, including making arrangements to identify and support children at risk of harm.

The government has given local authorities until 29 September 2019 to transition to the new partnership arrangements for safeguarding.

### **Safeguarding Our Beneficiaries**

1. All of our sessional / expert leaders will be cognisant of safeguarding laws and have their own insurance and policies as required.
2. All activities will be risk assessed
3. Should any safeguarding concerns arise we will discuss these within the project team (of the activity / event) and if need be liaise with clinical supervisors or Devon County Council.

### **Trustees, Staff and Volunteers:**

At present we are a small team of Trustees working within the Youth Mental Health Foundation. We will ensure we undertake safeguarding training every two years, starting in Spring of 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> National Council for Voluntary Service



Each member of personnel responsible for leading activities with clients and/or children (whether paid or voluntary) will be required to show they have an up to date DBS check or have one undertaken via Devon County Council

We will follow the Devon County Council [‘Three Golden Rules’](#)

**Named Safeguarding Lead: Joel Sutton**

**Youth Mental Health Foundation**