



STATEMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION

Stoke-on-Trent Pride is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people, and in order to achieve this, to working within the procedures set out by the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

Introduction

- A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).
- Child Protection and/or Safeguarding Issues can arise through the agency's work with **any** Client or service user, not simply when in direct contact with children or young people.
- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from harm.
- All suspicions and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff have a responsibility to report concerns to the relevant Child Protection Officer.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Protecting children from maltreatment is important in preventing the impairment of health or development. Protecting children from maltreatment and preventing the impairment of children's health or development are necessary, but not sufficient, to ensure that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. These aspects of safeguarding and promoting welfare are cumulative and contribute to the five Every Child Matters outcomes that are key to children and young people's well-being, namely:

1. Stay Safe
2. Be Healthy
3. Enjoy and Achieve
4. Make a Positive Contribution
5. Achieve Economic Well-being



Child Protection Issues

Child Protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare; it is everyone's responsibility. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Effective Child Protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim proactively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

Stoke-on-Trent Pride aims to achieve this by:

- Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from harm.
- Ensuring that all our staff are carefully selected, and accept responsibility for helping to protect children from maltreatment.
- Undertaking DBS checks for all staff, paid and volunteer.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of harm, or providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they have.
- Appointing members of staff who will be the main points of contact for any such concerns.

They will be known as Child Protection Officers.

- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to appropriate authorities.
- Recruiting staff using Stoke-on-Trent Pride Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedures.
- Monitoring training requirements and training needs identified in line with the organisational training and development policy.
- Asking all staff to take individual responsibility for familiarising themselves with the organisation's Child Protection Policy, and the relevant (i.e. either Stoke on Trent or Staffordshire) Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.
- Enabling all staff to have access to level one Child Protection Training.
- Requiring all staff to report any suspicion, allegation or disclosure of child protection/safeguarding issues, in line with the organisation's Child Protection Policy.

Date of Draft	July 2015
Date of Implementation	July 2019
Date of next review	July 2022