

Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Services Users

This Safeguarding Policy outlines the procedures and commitments of my counselling practice to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. It is designed to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all clients,

Definitions

- **Child:** A person under the age of 18.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** An individual aged 18 or over who is unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation. This may include individuals with disabilities, mental health conditions, or those who are elderly or frail.
- **Safeguarding:** Protecting people's health and wellbeing, and preventing impairment or abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Commitment to Safeguarding

- Promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
- Protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm.
- Responding promptly to any concerns or allegations of abuse or neglect.
- Working in partnership with other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

Responsibilities

- Understanding and adhering to this Safeguarding Policy.
- Being aware of the signs of abuse and neglect.
- Reporting any concerns or suspicions of abuse or neglect to the designated safeguarding lead.
- Attending safeguarding training as required.
- Maintaining confidentiality but sharing information with relevant agencies when necessary to protect individuals.

Safeguarding Procedures

- **Risk Assessment:** Conduct risk assessments for all clients, particularly those who may be vulnerable.
- **Safeguarding Training:** Ensure I attend to regular safeguarding training.
- **Record Keeping:** Maintain confidential records of client interactions.
- **Reporting Concerns:** Report any concerns or suspicions of abuse or neglect to the relevant authorities
- **Information Sharing:** Share information with relevant agencies, such as social services or the police, when necessary.

Review : This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and to reflect any changes in legislation or best practice.

Reporting:

- RGP 72500
- Care Agency 20078528
- Out of Hours Social Worker contact RGP on 72500
- Mental health crisis service 24 hours a day on 111

I am committed to reviewing my policy and good practice annually.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults in Gibraltar.

<https://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/legislations/children-act-2009-2332>

<https://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/legislations/mental-health-act-2016-4305/download>

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