

Child Protection Statement

Here at SafeCircle we believe that it is never acceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and we recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

SafeCircle recognizes that:

- The welfare of the child or young person is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm and/or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive SafeCircle services, including the children of family friends and distant relations.
- To provide all staff, babysitters and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of experiencing harm and/or abuse.

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers/founders, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of SafeCircle.

We will seek to safeguarding children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers.
- Recruiting staff and babysitters safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

- Providing effective management for staff and babysitters through support and training.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually as well as our recruitment every 3 years.

Acknowledgements:

These procedures have been created with resources and guidance from SafeNetwork.org.uk (an NSPCC organisation).

This procedure is consistent with the government guidelines set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, HM Government, March 2013, and with the Children's Workforce Development Council's publication, Recruiting Safely: Safer recruitment guidance helping to keep children and young people safe, CWDC, 2009.