



The Grey Dog Trust Registered charity number 117620

Putting young people's mental health centre stage.

The Grey Dog Trust

January 2018

Our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

This policy applies to all trustees, members, volunteers and any paid staff within or working on behalf of The Grey Dog Trust.

The purpose of this policy:

- To protect children and young people who receive The Grey Dog Trusts services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection

The Grey Dog Trust believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Legal framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998

- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special education needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 – 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Working together to safeguarding children: a guide to inter agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal 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
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young peoples welfare

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.

An abuse child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.

What is safeguarding?

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states that ‘Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined, for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children’s health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

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

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Trustee to be the Designated Safeguarding Member for children and young people
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures for all members and volunteers
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely and ensuring all relevant checks are made
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share any concerns or necessary information with other agencies who need to know and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment

The Grey Dog Trust creates an open and transparent culture and are dedicated to working in partnership with others to maintain the safety and well being of all who access the services and events run by the trust.

We commit to reviewing this policy on an annual basis