

Safeguarding Statement

C.O.P.E CIC recognises all persons have the right to live their lives free from violence and abuse. We have a zero-tolerance policy in terms on violence, bullying/harassment, and illicit drug use and/or possession on project.

All staff, sessional staff, counsellors and volunteers are subject to DBS vetting procedures.

C.O.P.E recognises that confidentiality is important when accessing support and wellbeing services; however, where there is a risk of abuse the Data Protection Act enables the lawful sharing of information in emergency or life-threatening situations, this may warrant the sharing of relevant information with relevant services **without consent**.

The law does prevent the sharing the sharing of sensitive, personal information within organisations if the information is confidential, but if there is a safeguarding concern, sharing information may be justified.

If at any time whilst accessing our services you disclose to staff any abuse (current or historic) or there is evidence that a crime has been committed on project, a record will be made, the information will be shared with the Manager, to ensure that proportionate action is taken as a response to any risk identified and disclosed. This will then be reported to external agencies in a timely manner.

We have a duty of care to all services users who access our project. If you disclose any abuse; where the abuse is seen as 'historical' C.O.P.E CIC recognise that the perpetrator may still pose a risk to others. Staff will encourage you to provide details of those at risk and the alleged perpetrators, with support offered to you regarding any impact your disclosure may have on you.

If you experience any safeguarding issues, experience or witness any abuse taking place whilst accessing our services we hope that you feel able to provide details to allow staff to use the information with the aim of preventing further abuse to yourself or to others. Please report any incidents to C.O.P.E's Service Manager immediately.