



## **Dragon Care**

### **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Dragon Care is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who access our services. We recognise that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, sessional workers, contractors and anyone working on behalf of Dragon Care.

#### **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

This policy is informed by:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Dragon Care will:

- Create safe and supportive environments for children and young people.
- Listen to children and take their concerns seriously.
- Act promptly and appropriately on all safeguarding concerns.

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- Work in partnership with families and external agencies.
- Ensure staff are trained, confident and supported.

## **RECOGNISING ABUSE**

Staff must be alert to signs of abuse and neglect, including:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Exploitation (including criminal and sexual exploitation)

Children with SEND may be more vulnerable due to communication needs, dependency on adults, or social isolation. Staff will use accessible communication and remain vigilant to subtle indicators.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

All staff and volunteers must:

- Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children.
- Follow this policy and related safeguarding procedures.
- Report concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Record concerns accurately and confidentially.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for:

- Managing and escalating concerns.
- Liaising with external agencies.

- Supporting staff.
- Maintaining safeguarding records.

### **SAFER RECRUITMENT**

Dragon Care operates safer recruitment practices, including:

- Application and interview processes.
- Identity and reference checks.
- Enhanced DBS checks with barred list information.
- Safeguarding training before unsupervised work.

### **RESPONDING TO CONCERNS**

All concerns must be reported to the DSL immediately. If a child is in immediate danger, emergency services will be contacted.

Staff must:

- Listen calmly and reassure the child.
- Not promise confidentiality.
- Record the concern accurately.
- Pass information to the DSL without delay.

### **RECORDING AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

All safeguarding records are stored securely and shared only with those who need to know in order to protect the child.

### **WHISTLEBLOWING**

Staff are encouraged to report concerns about poor practice or unsafe behaviour. Whistleblowers will be supported and protected.

## **TRAINING**

All staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training on induction and refresher training regularly.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually or following significant changes in guidance.

Signed on behalf of Dragon Care

**Role:** Operations Director

**Signature:** *Hayley Ostler*

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

**Review Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027