The HOLT Isle of Wight Community Visits Policy

At The HOLT we inherently recognise the need for vigilant awareness of safeguarding issues with a group of adults and young people who are especially vulnerable.

This is done through the following procedures:

* All staff working at The HOLT have enhanced DBS checks before they are able to work unsupervised with clients. Volunteers who attend regularly have the same checks. Visitors to the HOLT are always accompanied and have no access to students unsupervised. Professionals who visit the centre on a regular basis are required to provide proof of a fully enhanced DBS check before they are allowed unsupervised access to our clients unless they come from partner agencies e.g. the NHS or the Local Authority Social Services where we have had assurance that they have been checked. Visiting partner professionals will always be required to show their ID before access to a client and if in doubt we would always check with the organisation.
* Our Trustees also have enhanced DBS checks.
* All staff have Level 2 Safeguarding training and induction so that they understand their roles and responsibilities and are confident about carrying them out.
* The Director and Designated Safeguarding Lead has appropriate Level 3 DSL training.
* Staff, clients, parents/carers and Trustees feel happy that they could raise any issues or concerns about the safety or welfare of clients and know that they will be listened to and taken seriously.
* The HOLT responds to allegations appropriately with full investigation and, if appropriate, implementing the disciplinary and appeals procedures.
* By maintaining an ethos of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of clients and protecting staff.
* By assessing all risk carefully and taking all necessary steps to minimise and manage it, without depriving clients of important learning opportunities.
* This is supported by clear behaviour, safeguarding and anti-bullying policies, appropriate induction and training, monitoring and reviewing.
* The HOLT maintains strong working relationships with all those involved with the client, and ensures up to date working knowledge of legislation.

Before embarking on a community visit a detailed Risk assessment is carried out with a pre-visit site inspection carried out. All eventualities are considered in order to minimise risk to negligible proportions.

Where the risk is deemed to be too high, the visit will not go ahead. The Director has final approval on all out of centre visits.