



Safeguarding Policy

Rationale

This policy sets out the procedures that I will take if I feel that there is a safeguarding risk to clients, or if I am made aware of a safeguarding risk to a third party.

Disclosure and Barring Service

I have an enhanced 'Disclosure and Barring Service'; (DBS) check which is updated annually via the Government 'Update Service'. This is in place to ensure that I have no criminal history nor are there any reasons why I cannot work with children or vulnerable people. A paper copy of my DBS is available on request; otherwise, an online check can also be completed. My certificate number is 001812110161.

Safeguarding Adults

All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Abuse of an adult at risk may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may occur because of a failure to undertake action or appropriate care tasks. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur where a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not, or cannot, consent.

Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the individual.

As a counsellor, I have a duty of care to protect other people; therefore, if you as a client disclose a significant risk of harm, I may have to report this to relevant authorities. As per my confidentiality agreement, if I have to break this confidentiality, I will try my utmost to discuss it with you first and explain the reasons why.

If you disclose significant risk to me, then I will seek immediate advice and support from my Supervisor in regard to the appropriate next steps. This may lead to me contacting either Adult Social Services or the Police, if this is deemed necessary and appropriate.

If contacting Social Services, I would contact Wigan Safeguarding Adults Board and complete their online report form. ([Report concerns of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult \(wigan.gov.uk\)](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/child-protection/child-protection-reporting-form))



Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding Children is the responsibility of all adults; therefore, I have a duty of care to report any safeguarding concerns I have about children. Either this includes those who I am directly working with in a therapeutic way, or children associated with adult clients, who may be discussed during therapy.

I am fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of children by taking all reasonable steps to protect them from neglect, physical, sexual or emotional harm. Every child should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. I recognise that child abuse can be an emotive subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved and not to allow that to interfere with judgment about any action that needs to be taken. I also recognise my responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

If a risk to a child is disclosed to me during my therapeutic work, I will break confidentiality in order to take steps to safeguard the child. This may include contacting the Police and/or making a referral to Wigan Safeguarding Children's Board. They have a 24 hour helpline (01942 828300) or alternatively, an online referral can also be made. ([Wigan Children's Services Portal](#)).

I would also make my supervisor aware immediately of the situation and the steps that I have taken.

My main aim is to work supportively with my clients and offer the safe and confidential counselling service required. However, safeguarding concerns will override any confidentiality agreement that we have in place. This is the expectation for all adults working with vulnerable people, including children. Furthermore, my ethical body also expects its members to work in a way that safeguards all.