

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Amie Charnley is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all clients (clients include all service users; children, young people and adults) who seek her services. This safeguarding policy outlines her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all individuals who access her counselling services, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Policy Statement

Amie Charnley recognises her responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all clients who engage her services, regardless of age, disability, gender assignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

She is committed to creating an environment where clients feel safe, respected, and supported throughout their engagement with her counselling service.

Her safeguarding procedures aim to identify and respond to concerns about the safety and wellbeing of clients promptly and appropriately.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive counselling from Amie Charnley from harm. This includes the children of adults who use these services.
- To protect adults, particularly those who are vulnerable, who receive counselling from Amie Charnley from harm.
- To provide both children and adults using these services with the overarching principles that guide her approach to child protection.



Responsibilities

Amie Charnley has a duty to:

- Prioritise the safety and welfare of clients at all times.
- Be vigilant for signs of abuse or neglect and report any concerns following our reporting procedures.
- Maintain confidentiality by professional ethics, except in cases where disclosure is necessary to protect a client from harm, or any other person who is at risk from significant harm as per our counselling agreement.

Amie Charnley is responsible for:

- Attending training on safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Ensuring that she adheres to safeguarding guidelines and reports any concerns promptly.
- Reviewing and updating the safeguarding policy and procedures regularly to reflect best practices and legislative changes.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is essential to the counselling process, but it may be breached if there are safeguarding concerns that require intervention to protect a client's safety. The parameters around the appropriateness of breaching confidentiality are largely the same will all clients, however particular guidance may be sought in regards to those under 18. Clients will be informed about the limits of confidentiality at the outset of counselling sessions.

Risk Assessment

Before commencing counselling sessions, clients will be assessed for any potential safeguarding risks, particularly if they are children, young people or vulnerable adults.



Amie Charnley will regularly review clients' circumstances to identify any changes that may necessitate a reassessment of risk.

Reporting Procedures

Any concerns about the safety or welfare of a client will be reported following Amie Charnley's report procedures, which may include contacting relevant authorities such as social services or the police.

If Amie Charnley feels that a child or young person is at risk of harm a referral will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) [MASH Form - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) or the relevant MASH Hub to the local authority in question. As stated in her counselling agreement, where possible this will be with the knowledge of the child or young person.

Amie Charnley will also report her concerns to her supervisor and where necessary, to her governing body the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

Amie Charnley will document any safeguarding concerns, actions taken, and outcomes in a confidential manner.

Training and Support

Amie Charnley will attend training on safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure she is equipped to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns effectively.

Review and Monitoring

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually by Amie Charnley to ensure it remains effective and compliant with relevant legislation and best practice guidelines. Any incidents or near misses related to safeguarding will be monitored and used to inform improvements to our safeguarding procedures.



Children and Young People

Amie Charnley Counselling believes that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

Amie Charnley Counselling recognises that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies may be necessary in order to promote or safeguard a child or young person.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to 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.
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

Amie Charnley Counselling will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures.
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/for-organisations and can be found in Amie Charnley Counselling's Privacy Policy]
- ensuring that there is an effective complaints measures in place



Conclusion

Amie Charnley is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safeguarding to protect the welfare of all clients who engage with her services. This policy will be communicated to clients, and she welcomes feedback to help her continually improve her safeguarding practices.

