

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Background

Eden's Trust's mission is to enable and provide emotional and therapeutic bereavement support to children and parents who have lost a child or sibling. Eden's Trust offers drop-in support groups for bereaved parents and siblings. Eden's Trust also provide one-to-one, family, couples and siblings counselling.

Children may, through the relationships provided to them by Eden's Trust, take the opportunity to share information about a harmful experience. This may happen in a direct way, through a verbal disclosure, or indirectly through play or demeanor or through another child. In addition, there may be some physical evidence of neglect or injury apparent, which is noted by a member of Eden's Trust's team. Eden's Trust staff who are working with parents may also have cause to be concerned about the welfare of that person as well as their children.

2. Purpose and application of Policy

Eden's Trust believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount;
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose and scope of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive Eden's Trust's services, including the children of adult clients.
- To provide all staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm;
- The policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Eden's Trust.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them;
- adopting safeguarding and child protection guidelines.
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers;
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately;
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

It is essential that members of Eden's Trust's team are aware of their duties with regard to safeguarding and ensure that:

- The safety and wellbeing of the child is promoted;
- The law and statutory guidance concerning child protection and safeguarding is complied with;
- The policies of the Trust, the Local Authority, Local Safeguarding Children Board/Child Protection Committee in which Eden's Trust is working are respected.
- All staff and volunteers in Eden's Trust comply with the child protection and safeguarding policy.

It is not the role or responsibility of Eden's Trust to investigate allegations of harm or risk of harm. Disclosures or concerns arising out of any of these areas of service delivery will be treated the same and are all covered by this policy.

3. Statutory and legal framework

3.1. **In England and Wales** the Children Act of 1989 and 2004 provides the overall framework for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The child's welfare is to be the paramount consideration in all decision-making.

The Government's guidance on safeguarding children in England is called Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (often referred to simply as Working Together). Working Together acknowledges the need for all providers of children's services, including those in the voluntary sector, to work in collaboration and to agreed local standards.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015 sets out what schools and colleges in England must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18.

The All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 provide the common standards to guide and inform child protection practice in each of the Local and Regional Safeguarding Children Boards across Wales.

Keeping Learners Safe 2015 is the Welsh Assembly statutory guidance setting out the infrastructure and arrangements that need to be in place to ensure that people in the education service have the skills, means and training necessary to ensure children and young people are protected from harm.

Section 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006, places upon School Governors the duty to ensure that schools safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

3.2 In Scotland, the legal duty to investigate and report in relation to child care and child protection issues is derived from two sources: the Police (Scotland) Act 1967 which provides the mandate for police officers; and the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, section 53 of which provides the mandate for local authorities and section 56 for Reporters to the Children's Hearing.

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 provides the primary mandate for social work intervention in Scotland and section 12 of this legislation requires local authorities to provide services to promote the welfare of children in need.

In 2014, the Scottish Government launched 'National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland'. This guidance provides the context for child protection work in Scotland, outlines the roles and responsibilities of services and organisations, provides a framework for identifying and responding to concerns about children and, gives additional information on child protection in specific circumstances. The guidance clearly states how Child Protection is the responsibility of all who work with children and families, regardless of whether that work brings them in to direct contact with children.

'Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)' (Scottish Government 2012) stipulates a consistent approach in Scotland for people to work with all children and young people and promotes action to improve well-being in eight areas, taking in to account the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. These well-being indicators state that children and young people must be: healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included and, above all in the context of this policy, safe. The primary indicator for child protection is to keep a child safe and, in doing so, attention is giving to other areas of well-being as appropriate.

4. Recognition and reporting

It is essential that those who work with children and families should be alert to the signs of child abuse. There are four main categories of abuse:

A. Physical abuse

A form of abuse, which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

B. Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Amongst other things, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment; or
- have regard or be responsive to, a child's basic emotional needs

C. Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on child's emotional development. Amongst other things this may involve:

- conveying to children they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or not valued;
- age or developmentally inappropriate expectations;
- lack of opportunity to express their views;
- seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another;
- serious bullying (including cyberbullying);
- causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger;
- exploitation or corruption; or
- domestic violence

As highlighted above, domestic violence is generally treated as falling under emotional abuse, with the cross-government definition (2014) of domestic violence and abuse being:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behavior, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

Eden's Trust considers that domestic abuse is a child protection issue and that if children witness or hear domestic abuse, this must be treated as a child protection matter, even if they are not directly involved in the incidents. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 states that impairment can be caused by seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.

D. Sexual abuse

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware, including:

- physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts;
- non-physical contact e.g. looking at or involvement in the production of sexual images, watching sexual activity;
- encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in



preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Other safeguarding concerns

In addition to the above concerns about children **self-harming or expressing suicidal ideas** must be treated as safeguarding and child protection issues.

PREVENT duty

Any concerns about radicalisation and extremist views or behaviours in children and young people must be reported as a safeguarding concern. Eden's Trust works in line with Prevent Duty 2015 guidance and will consult with local Prevent Co-ordinators where necessary.

FGM Concerns that a child has been, or may be about to be, subjected to **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**, fall under this policy and must also be reported as a safeguarding concern.

Forced marriage

In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage and some element of duress is involved. Duress includes both physical and emotional pressure and abuse. Forced marriage is primarily, but not exclusively, an issue of violence against females. Most cases involve young women and girls aged between 13 and 30, although there is evidence to suggest that as many as 15 per cent of victims are male. These procedures are aimed at dealing with forced marriage for a child/young person under 18 years of age.

Honour Based Violence The term "honour crime" or "honour-based violence" embraces a variety of crimes of violence (mainly but not exclusively against women), including assault, imprisonment and murder where their family or their community is punishing the person. They are being punished for (actually or allegedly) undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour. In transgressing this correct code of behaviour, the person shows that they have not been properly controlled to conform by their family and this is to the "shame" or "dishonour" of the family.

For safeguarding advice/guidance and reporting staff and volunteers should contact their Line Managers in the first instance. In cases when they are not available they should contact the Safeguarding team.

At Eden's Trust, the person designated to take responsibility for child protection is the Safeguarding Manager, who is available to all staff for advice and guidance and may be contacted by telephone on 07814 550375.

5. Confidentiality

In establishing an initial contract with the child and the parent, the limits of confidentiality must be explained, i.e. that Eden's Trust team member will need to inform the Safeguarding Manager if there are concerns about the child's safety. This is an important part of the contract with the child at the outset of the work.



It is for the child or parent to choose what is and is not spoken about during counselling sessions or assessments.

The duty to safeguard children and share information about child protection concerns takes priority over all other considerations, including the confidential nature of the counselling relationship. Eden's Trust fully participates in multi-agency working, in line with government guidance, in order to share information and safeguard children.

6. Place2Be Personnel and Safer Recruitment practices

The safeguarding and child protection policy must also safeguard children from harm from those placed in positions of trust or care.

At Eden's Trust the following steps are taken:

- a) No direct work with children can begin without receipt of two satisfactory references and enhanced DBS/PVG (Scotland) clearance of staff and Eden's Trust Counsellors working directly and alone with children.
- b) A DBS/PVG (Scotland) check is carried out for all Eden's Trust staff and will be updated on a three yearly basis or on a 'live' basis for those registered with the DBS/PVG update service.
- c) Induction training in Safeguarding is delivered to all staff and Eden's Trust Counsellors who work directly with children.
- d) Eden's Trust maintain an overview of their involvement with children.
- e) The relationship between the member of Eden's Trust team and a child who receives the service must be restricted to the professional forum, where services are delivered in accordance with BACP ethical standards;
- f) If any member of Eden's Trust team has concerns regarding the conduct of another member of Eden's Trust team, they have a duty to report this concern in confidence to their Safeguarding Manager. Concerns about or allegations against members of the Eden's Trust team must be referred to the Safeguarding Manager immediately.
- i) If a member of the Eden's Trust team has concerns regarding the conduct of any member of staff, they have a duty to follow this procedure and report to the Safeguarding Manager.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.