

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 provides one-to-one, family, couples and siblings counselling. Eden's Trust also works within Primary and Secondary Schools with children at any and all stages of their bereavement

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 demeanour 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.

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 2023 (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 to deliver effective arrangements for help, support, safeguarding and protection of children and young people.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023 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.

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 behaviour, 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).

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

There are a number of other safeguarding concerns that staff need to be aware of. These are detailed further in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

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 2023 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.

Child Criminal Exploitation where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into criminal activity

County Lines a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas

Serious Violence children or adults are involved with serious violent crime

Child Sexual Exploitation occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity

Modern Slavery this encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour

Child Abduction and Community Safety Incidents this is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child

Cybercrime criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet

Mental Health awareness that mental health can be an indicator that an adult or young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation

5. Reporting and Reaction Protocol

It is the responsibility of everyone at Eden’s Trust to act if there is a cause for concern, any safeguarding concerns or signs and indicators of abuse or disclosures.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should strive to maintain a complete safeguarding picture and take lead responsibility for Child Protection and wider safeguarding concerns, as well as collaborating with the school, the Local Authority and the Counsellors and Therapists.

The DSL, Shelly Khaled, can be contacted by email shelly@edenstrust.org.uk. Local Authority Designated Officer is Helen Curtis Tel: 020 8708 5350, lado@redbridge.gov.uk.

The CEO for Eden’s Trust is Elli Galvani who can be reached on 07814 550375 or by email on elli@edenstrust.org.uk

The person who has concerns about a child/young person’s welfare should:

Reg Charity 1136092 www.edenstrust.org.uk
Email: info@edenstrust.org.uk Tel: 07814 550375

- Ensure that the person disclosing an issue should feel listened to and supported
- Not make a promise to keep information confidential
- Write a factual, accurate and detailed statement of what they have been told, seen or heard and include dates and times.
- Reassure the young person that they have done the right thing in telling you and they will be taken seriously and kept safe.
- Tell them what you will do next, ask for consent to share the information and inform them with whom the information will be shared. Information sharing must be done in a way that is compliant with Eden's Trust Privacy Policy
- Contact the DSL about concerns within 24 hours and the DSL will make a decision about the next step
- If there is any immediate risk to the child or adult the police must be contacted on 999.

The DSL should ensure that the records are stored securely in a place to which access is restricted. Schools should be aware of the concerns and referral made by Eden's Trust and have passed this information on to relevant authorities. Eden's Trust should follow up if no response or action has taken place in 72 hours.

6. Responding to a Concern in Schools

Eden's Trust works in school settings. The Eden's Trust team member should ensure they have a copy of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures and that they understand the reporting process. Each school will have a designated safeguarding lead. Should concerns arise about a young person in school then the Eden's Trust team member must follow the school's safeguarding policy and procedures, and he/she should at the same time inform the Eden's Trust designated safeguarding lead of their concerns to ensure that appropriate action has been implemented. In the event of the Eden's Trust designated safeguarding lead not being available all concerns should be escalated to the Local Authority Designated Officer.

7. 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 DSL 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.

7. Safer Recruitment

Eden's Trust is fully aware that the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy must also safeguard children from harm from those placed in positions of trust or care. We therefore seek to recruit people who respect and value others and who are committed to the highest standard of personal and professional conduct.

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 clearance of staff and Eden's Trust Counsellors working directly and alone with children.
- b) A DBS 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 update service.
- c) Specific questions about Safeguarding are included in interviews
- d) Induction training in Safeguarding is delivered to all staff and Eden's Trust Counsellors who work directly with children.
- e) Eden's Trust maintain an overview of their involvement with children.
- f) 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;
- g) A key element of our safeguarding approach is Eden's Trust's Code of Conduct. This applies to all staff, volunteers and trustees and anyone acting on behalf of Eden's Trust.
- h) 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 DSL. Concerns about or allegations against members of the Eden's Trust team must be referred to the DSL immediately.

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

To be reviewed June 2024