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Child Protection Policy

Introduction

We take seriously our responsibilities to the safety and welfare of children and young people with whom we work.

This policy outlines our approach to preventing and reducing the risk of harm to children and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk from, eating disorders or whom, in the course of our dealings with them, divulge information which may indicate their having suffered or being at risk of other harm.

Scope

We will apply this policy at all times when dealing with young people under the age of eighteen, and we are committed to giving equal priority to keeping all children and young people safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Procedures

The procedures by which we interact with children and offer them nutritional advice and support will be in line with current child protection legislation and relevant guidance from either the Department for Education, the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership, or the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group.

When engaging with young people through their schools, we will also work in accordance with the safeguarding procedures of that school.

Supporting Children

We will report any incidents of abuse that we suspect are a criminal offence to the Police. We will treat any disclosures of historical abuse in the same way as an allegation, disclosure or suspicion of current child abuse.

We will share information for the purposes of safeguarding with statutory services and other agencies, and will comply with the statutory duty to supply information where requested. We will develop channels for sharing information through the Local Area Designated Officer and the Bromley Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub ('MASH').

Confidentiality

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. We will only disclose personal information to individuals or agencies where necessary for the welfare of a child. This may include the child's parents or legal guardians.

We will not promise a child to maintain confidentiality where it might compromise the child's wellbeing or safety, or that of another. Where disclosure of such information is deemed necessary, we will endeavour to inform the parent or legal guardian of the child before doing so unless such information presents a risk to the child or a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult an appropriate child protection professional.

We will handle data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, as enacted by the Data Protection Act 2018, and our Data Protection Policy.