**Devon and Cornwall Counselling Hub**

**Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

### General Purpose Statement

Devon and Cornwall Counselling Hub seeks to ensure that children and adults are protected and safeguarded in the community. By implementing the following practices, our goal is to protect children and adults from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also protecting our contractors and learners from false accusations.

### Definitions

* For purposes of this policy, the terms “child” or “children” include all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years.
* For the purposes of this statement, the term “adult” means anyone who is eighteen years or over regardless of any individual vulnerabilities.
* For the purpose of this policy, child abuse includes neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

**Reporting Abuse or Safeguarding Concerns**

Child protection and safeguarding children and adults is everyone’s responsibility. Devon and Cornwall Counselling hub take the view that it is therefore the responsibility of the organisation, contractors and learners to take equal responsibility for ensuring the wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.

If you have reason to believe that a child or adult is at risk from harm, then you should:-

* Report your concerns to a course tutor or the course director as soon as is possible after a concern is raised. The course tutor and or the course director will then assess the situation and may ask you to contact the social services at the local authority in the area that that the child or vulnerable adult lives.
* If a course tutor or the course director is unavailable, you should contact your own clinical supervisor if appropriate for further guidance and support.
* If neither of the above is available, you should contact the social services department of the local authority where the child or vulnerable adult lives and pass on the concerns you have.
* If the situation is regarding the threat of a terrorism related matter, then the police should be contacted on 101 for information and support or 999 in emergency situations. Please note that you may need to contact the police in emergency situations in addition and before the previous steps, when a threat or worry is immediate.

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