

## Child Protection Policy Statement

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It is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and Downright Excellent recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them. The Children Acts 1989 and 2004 state that a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, therefore, when this policy uses the word 'child' or 'children' it is referring to 'children and young people' up to the age of 18.

The Safeguarding Policy (which this statement forms part of) applies to all team members, including managers and the board of trustees, freelancers, volunteers and sessional workers, agency workers, students or anyone working on behalf of Downright Excellent's services.

### 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 their agencies is essential in promoting children's welfare.

### The purpose of the Safeguarding Policy is to:

- Provide protection for the children and young people who receive Downright Excellent's services
- Provide team members including volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child may be experiencing, or be at risk, of harm.

### We seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to them and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for team members and volunteers
- Recruiting team members and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, families, team members and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving families and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

The Downright Excellent Board of Trustees is committed to reviewing safeguarding policies annually and reviewing practice at each Board meeting.

**Date of last policy review: May 2017**

**Date of next review: May 2018**