

Child Protection Policy Statement

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.

We recognise that the welfare of the child/ young person is paramount. Children have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse regardless of their age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief or sexual orientation or identity. Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

Downright Excellent recognises that working in partnership with children, young people, their families, carers and their agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and will act accordingly.

This policy applies to all team members, including managers and the board of trustees, paid members of the team, volunteers and sessional workers, agency workers, students or anyone working on behalf of Downright Excellent's services.

Purpose of this policy

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive Downright Excellent's services.
- To 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 and respecting them;
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for team members and volunteers;
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise;
- 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;
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice;
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately;
- Implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers;
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying appropriate measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.

We are committed to reviewing this policy bi-annually and our practice annually or more frequently if appropriate.

This policy was last reviewed by the Board of Trustees in July 2019.