



Claire Donaldson - Holistic Therapist

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Safeguarding Policy

1. **Statement of Commitment**: Claire Donaldson / Shewa Living - Holistic Therapies is committed to safeguarding the welfare and promoting the well-being of children and vulnerable adults who receive our holistic therapy services. We recognize our responsibility to ensure a safe and supportive environment for children, where their physical, emotional, and psychological welfare is prioritized.
2. **Legal Framework**: Our safeguarding practices are guided by relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including but not limited to:
 - The Children Act 1989 and 2004
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
 - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
3. **Definition of Safeguarding**: Safeguarding encompasses measures to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It involves promoting their welfare, preventing risks, and responding effectively to concerns or disclosures of abuse.
4. **Roles and Responsibilities**:
 - As the sole trader and practitioner, I am responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of children and vulnerable adults receiving holistic therapy services.
 - All staff and volunteers involved in our practice have a responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns or disclosures of abuse promptly and appropriately.
5. **Risk Assessment**: We conduct regular risk assessments to identify potential risks to children's safety and well-being within our practice. This includes assessing risks associated with the treatment environment, interactions with practitioners, and potential safeguarding vulnerabilities.
6. **Safer Recruitment**: We adhere to safer recruitment practices to ensure that staff and volunteers working with children are appropriately vetted, trained, and supervised. This may include obtaining relevant background checks, references, and qualifications.



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7. **Code of Conduct**: We maintain a code of conduct outlining expected behaviours and boundaries for staff and volunteers when working with children and vulnerable adults. This includes guidelines for professional conduct, appropriate physical contact, and maintaining confidentiality.

8. **Confidentiality and Information Sharing**: We respect children's and vulnerable adults' right to privacy and confidentiality. However, we recognize that safeguarding concerns take precedence over confidentiality, and information may need to be shared with relevant authorities or agencies to ensure the safety and welfare of children.

9. **Training and Awareness**: Staff and volunteers receive training on safeguarding procedures, recognizing signs of abuse, responding to disclosures, and reporting concerns. Training is regularly updated to reflect changes in legislation and best practice guidance. This is conducted annually.

10. **Communication and Reporting**: We have clear procedures in place for staff and volunteers to report safeguarding concerns or disclosures of abuse. Reports are taken seriously, investigated promptly, and escalated to appropriate authorities as necessary. In the community safeguarding concerns will be reported to the relevant Local Authorities Safeguarding team within the Children's Services Department or adult social care. Within schools, safeguarding reporting will be done to the school's safeguarding lead.

11. **Support and Referral**: We provide support to children who may have experienced harm or abuse, including signposting to appropriate support services and facilitating access to professional help when needed.

12. **Review and Monitoring**: This safeguarding policy is regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in legislation, practice, and organizational procedures. We monitor the implementation of safeguarding measures and seek feedback from stakeholders to inform improvements.

By adhering to this safeguarding policy, we aim to create a safe and nurturing environment for children receiving holistic therapy services, where their well-being is prioritized and protected.

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