**Emotional Logic Centre Safeguarding Children Policy**

Introduction

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers, trustees, paid staff, Tutors, Facilitators, Emotional Logic Business Associates, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of The Emotional Logic Centre.

The purpose of this policy is:

* To protect children (under the age of 18) who receive services from The Emotional Logic Centre. This includes children of the adults who use our services;
* To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

The Emotional Logic Centre believes that a child should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

A note on age: The Children Act (1989) defines a child as someone who is less than 18 years of age. ELC policies and procedures use this definition of ‘child’.

This policy should be read alongside our other policies and procedures on:

* Safeguarding roles at ELC.
* Staff and volunteers Safety and Wellbeing policy
* Digital Safeguarding Policy
* Safer recruitment policy
* Recruiting of ex-offenders policy
* Health and Safety policy
* ELC Operations Manual
* ELC Team Handbook
* Procedure for reporting concerns about a child
* Procedure for making allegations about team members
* Safeguarding data protection policy
* Complaints
* Safeguarding training & supervision policy

Legislation

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

* Children Act 1989
* United Convention of the Rights if the Child 1991
* Data Protection Act 1998
* Sexual Offences Act 2003
* Children Act 2004
* Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2016
* Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
* Children and Families Act 2014
* Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years - statutory guidance for organisations that work with and support children who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014. [last updated 30th April 2021]
* Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015. [last updated 4th July 2018]
* Working Together To Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015 [last update 9th Dec 2020]
* Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE): Statutory guidance from the Department for Education [last update 1st Sept 2021].

We recognise that:

* The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act of 1989.
* 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.
* Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
* Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

* Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
* Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer.
* Ensuring that EL practitioners and staff know that they need to understand and comply with third party policies and procedures if working in other settings (such as a school).
* Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
* Providing effective management for staff and volunteers.
* Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring that all necessary checks are made.
* Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
* Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
* Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
* Ensuring that we have effective complaints measures in place.
* Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

Different types of abuse - these definitions are taken from the statutory guidance Working Together 2015

**Physical abuse** may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or children to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of material substance abuse. Once a child is born it may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment; failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger; failure to ensure adequate supervision, including the use of adequate care takers; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

There are also emerging types and methods of child abuse, including:

* Sexual exploitation
* Female genital mutilation (FGM)
* Trafficking of children in order to exploit them sexually, financially, via domestic servitude, or via the involvement in activity such as the production and sale of illegal drugs
* Abuse linked to beliefs such as spirit possession or witchcraft
* Radicalisation and the encouragement or coercion to become involved in terrorist activities
* Abuse via online methods eg from adults seeking to develop sexual relationships with children or to use sexual or abusive images of them
* Domestic violence (either witnessing violence between adult family members, or, in the case of older young people, being subjected to coercion or violence in an intimate relationship in the same way as an older person)

Contact details

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed in July 2022