

Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy for Angel Advocates

Introduction:

Angel Advocates believes in protecting the rights of children and young people to live in safety, free from harm, neglect and abuse. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of Angel Advocates in working together in promoting the welfare of children and young people using its services and safeguarding them from harm. This includes the children of adults who use the services of Angel Advocates.

Employees, trustees and volunteers will be made aware of this policy and its overarching principles, at induction and in training and will be made aware of how this policy can be accessed.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Angel Advocates, including senior managers, board of trustees, employed staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England and Wales.

Supporting documents:

This policy statement should be read in conjunction with Angel Advocates organizational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- Role descriptor for the designated safeguarding lead
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing complaints and allegations against, staff, volunteers and trustees
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Client records, retention and storage
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour codes for clients, including children and young people
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Recruitment and vetting policy
- Social media and online policy
- Whistle-blowing
- Health and Safety
- Induction, training, support and supervision
- Adult to child ratios

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- Angel Advocates has a responsibility to promote the rights and welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

We recognize that:

- The welfare of the client, particularly children and young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of children and young people

- All children and young people regardless of; beliefs, ethnicity or cultural background, sexuality, gender, gender identity, age, economic power, mental health, neurodiversity, or ability, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of past experiences, level of dependency, communication needs or other issues and that extra safeguards may be needed to keep children and young people who are additionally vulnerable safe from harm or abuse.

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

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our own policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing all information professionally and securely, in line with the General Data Protection Regulation, legislation and guidance
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, young people and their families via; leaflets, posters, group work and one to one discussions, making sure that all know where to go if they have concerns
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, their families, carers and parents as appropriate
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that our policies and procedures to help us deal effectively with any issues which might arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistle-blowing measures in place
- Ensuring that the premises we use provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, adult clients, our staff and volunteers and that the relevant health and safety measures are in place in accordance with legislation
- building and maintaining a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families treat each other with respect and are comfortable in sharing concerns.

Contact details:

Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding

Name

Email address:

Telephone Number:

Designated Lead for Child Protection

Name:

Email address:

Telephone Number:

Designated Trustee for Safeguarding

Name

Email address:

Telephone Number:

Police

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

Angel Advocates is committed to reviewing policies and good practice documents annually.

This policy was initiated on.....and will be reviewed no later than.....

Signed:Designated Trustee for Safeguarding

Date: