



Down's Syndrome Support Group

Child and adults at risk of harm Protection Policy

This policy and plan apply to all staff, including managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of DownSouth.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children, young people and adults at risk of harm who receive Downsouth's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to protection of children and adults at risk of harm;

Downsouth believes that a child, young person or adults at risk of harm should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk of harm and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Legal framework

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

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, and adults at risk of harm regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a 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, adults at risk of harm, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children, young people and adults at risk of harm safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, adults at risk of harm, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children/adults at risk of harm appropriately.

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

This policy was last reviewed on:*20 July 2015*.....

