



NEW ROMNEY COUNSELLING SERVICES

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Safeguarding policy

This policy applies to all staff including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working on the behalf of New Romney Counselling Services.

The purpose of this policy:

- To protect children and young people who receive counselling from New Romney Counselling Services. This includes children of adults who use our services.
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

Policy Statement:

New Romney Counselling Services believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

NRCS recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that children and young people can be victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect. NRCS has therefore adopted the procedures set out below. It recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies.

Codes of Practice:

- Written permission will be obtained from a parent or guardian before counselling takes place.
- Confidentiality issues will be explained to the parent or guardian prior to counselling sessions.
- All children will have a responsible adult present in the building whilst their one to one counselling session takes place.
- Any disclosure to his/ her counsellor of abuse in any form taking place outside the counselling environment should be immediately reported by the counsellor to their supervisor, who in turn will then report to the NRCS child protection coordinator.
- Any complaint regarding employees of NRCS, with regard to child protection, will be taken seriously and should be brought to the attention of the NRCS child protection coordinator.

Complaints Procedure:

Rosalind Russell is responsible for co-ordinating NRCS' safeguarding policy. Any complaints of suspected or actual child abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon by Ms Russell. In the advent of such a complaint Ms Russell will inform Social Services and the Local Fund Administrator. If any complaints relate to Ms Russell, then Social Services should be contacted immediately.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of abuse.
- Some children are additionally venerable 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.
- Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.

Legal framework

- Children act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the child 1991
- "Safe from Harm " guidelines 1993
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- "working Together to Safeguard Children" published by the Government 2010
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

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

This policy was last reviewed on 30th January 2018