



## *Beautiful New Beginnings CIC*

### **Dealing with Disclosures Policy**

**Beautiful New Beginnings takes the role and responsibility for safeguarding each and every child and adult that uses the service seriously and we are committed to ensuring the safety of all who access our service.**

### **Child Disclosure**

#### Definition of Child Abuse

The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, 1989, defines child abuse as "...the harming (whether physically, emotionally, sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect, or deprivation of any child or young person".

Physical abuse is a non-accidental act on a child that results in physical harm. This includes, but is not limited to, beating, hitting, shaking, burning, drowning, suffocating, biting, poisoning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse also involves the fabrication or inducing of illness.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on the child's emotional development. This can include a pattern of rejecting, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting or terrorising a child. It may also include age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It also includes the seeing or hearing the ill treatment of others.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities (penetrative and non-penetrative, for example, rape, kissing, touching, masturbation) as well as non-contact acts such as involving children in the looking at or production of sexual images, sexual activities and sexual behaviours.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, causing long term serious harm to the child's health or development. It may also include neglect of a child's basic or emotional needs. Neglect is a lack: of action, emotion or basic needs.

Family Violence is physical, emotional, sexual and other abuse by someone (usually but not always a man) of a person (usually but not always a woman) with whom they have or have had some form of intimate relationship with, such as marriage or cohabitation, in order to maintain power and control over a person. It is important to be vigilant to any signs, particularly if children are being affected

#### Disclosure of Abuse

Beautiful New Beginnings is committed to the safeguarding of all parents, babies and children who come to our service.



## *Beautiful New Beginnings CIC*

In the event of a disclosure of any sort we would follow the outlined procedure

### **Child Disclosure**

#### **Advice given to all staff and volunteers**

- Don't panic.
- Remember that the safety and well-being of the child come before the interests of any other person.
- Listen to the child and accept what the child says.
  - Look at the child directly, but do not appear shocked.
  - Don't seek help while the child is talking to you.
  - Reassure them that they did the right thing by telling someone.
  - Assure them that it is not their fault and you will do your best to help.
  - Let them know that you need to tell someone else.
  - Let them know what you are going to do next and that you will let them know what happens.
  - Be aware that the child may have been threatened.
- Write down what the child says in their own words – record what you have seen and heard also.
  - Make certain you distinguish between what the child has actually said and the inferences you may have made. Accuracy is paramount in this stage of the procedure
- Tell your manager or supervisor as soon as possible and safeguarding lead Carolyn Whitehead or deputy lead Valerie Bray.
- Refer to Liverpool Safeguarding Team 0151 233 3700 or contact the police on 0151 709 6010
- After making the referral to safeguarding team and Safeguarding lead look after yourself. Discuss the matter with your manager, supervisor or relevant person.

### **Adult disclosure**

#### **Advice given to all staff and volunteers**

- Should an adult make a disclosure to you treat them with respect.
- Ensure the safety of the children and them - paramount
- Advise that they need to disclose to a professional body eg careline or the police and advise that you will stay with them throughout while you do this.
- If they will not disclose to a official body ensure that you sign post to relevant services.
- It is your responsibility to ensure the safety of the child. If concerned and parent/carer will not disclose, then it is your responsibility to protect the child and contact careline on 0151 233 3700 or the police on 0151 709 6010
- Make notes on the disclosure in full and sign and date.
- This must be kept in a Disclosures file.



*Beautiful New Beginnings CIC*