

BMECP Centre, 10A Fleet Street, Brighton, BN1 4ZE

# Safeguarding Policy Statement

<b>Issued by:</b>	BMECP Board
<b>Version:</b>	1.0
<b>Date:</b>	31 December 2024

## Policy Revision History

It is important that this Safeguarding Policy Statement reflects the current situation and business requirements at BMECP. At a minimum it should reviewed every 2 years.

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Reason for Update</b>
1.0	31 December 2024	First Issue

## Purpose and scope of this policy statement

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and adults who receive Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership (BMECP)'s services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services. (*Where we mention child / children we are referring to children and young people throughout.*)
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of BMECP, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

## Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults in England:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child 1989
- The Human Rights Act 2000
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- General Data Protection Regulations 2018
- Working Together to Safeguard Children DFE 2018
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
- Ofsted

## Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- recording concerns and information sharing
- records retention and storage
- disciplinary policy and procedure
- code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- photography and sharing images guidance
- safer recruitment
- online safety
- anti-bullying
- managing complaints
- whistleblowing
- health and safety
- induction, training, supervision and support

## We believe that:

- children and adults should never experience abuse of any kind.
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

## **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of children and adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting children and adult welfare
- all children and adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children and adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children and adults who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated a designated safeguarding lead and one designated safeguarding officer
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our 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 and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, adults and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, adults and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, adults and their families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately



- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, adults, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, adults and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## **Contact details**

Nominated Safeguarding officer

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