

4. safeguarding statement of purpose

introduction

asphaleia is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people we work with. We believe all our service users have the right to learn and be cared for in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment as we feel this is vital to the positive outcomes for our service users.

organisational practices

We have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to meet this commitment. The policies include, but are not exclusive to;

- Anti bullying and harassment
- Child protection and safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Child sexual exploitation
- Safe caring
- DBS
- Prevent
- Pregnant service users
- Missing persons
- Working professionally
- Whistle blowing
- Staff supervision
- Confidentiality and information sharing
- Lone working
- Incident management
- Safer recruitment
- Female genital mutilation
- Honour based violence and forced marriages
- Domestic abuse
- IT and broadband usage for service users
- Modern day slavery
- Gang association and violence
- Criminal exploitation

- Peer on peer abuse

Specific practice details and processes are explained in the policies, however, below is an overview of our commitment, management and oversight of safeguarding within our service provision.

All asphaleia policies and procedures are created and developed to work within Statutory Guidance, Legislation and Regulations. Some of which are:

- The Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- Home Office: Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults; County Lines Guidance, September 2018
- HM Government: Information sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers, July 2018
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Care Act 2014
- Forced Marriage Act 2007
- Fostering Services Regulations 2011
- Department for Education: Child sexual exploitation; Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child exploitation, February 2017
- Department for Education: Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care, January 2014
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Education Act 2011
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- HM Government: Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation, July 2020
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Department for Education: Statutory Guidance; Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern day slavery, November 2017
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Department for Education: The Prevent Duty; Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers, June 2015
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018

- Policing and Crime Act 2017
- Children’s Commissioner: Keeping Kids Safe; Improving safeguarding responses to gang violence and criminal exploitation, February 2019

This list is by no means exhaustive.

We work with other agencies such as Social Services, Schools and Mental Health Workers to name a few. When working with other professionals we share information as appropriate according to policy.

We actively work within, promote and understand our Prevent Duty to tackle the current issues of radicalisation and extremism. We make service users aware of safe lifestyles and promote safeguarding issues with them.

All asphaleia staff and volunteers are recruited in line with safer recruitment practices and are trained to a level of safeguarding understanding and knowledge dependant on their job role.

asphaleia has a Safeguarding Team encompassing an appointed Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead’s (DDSL). All trained to Level 3 Designated Safeguarding. They meet quarterly to review policy and practice, highlight any improvements and implement them. The team review all contracts of service, local authority protocols and are registered to receive updates from LSCB’s of the authorities we work with to ensure our compliance and ongoing good practice. We have a Safeguarding Quality Improvement Plan which takes into account the changes in safeguarding legislation and guidance, as well as the improvement of our practices.

The Safeguarding Team is;

- DSL: Becky Heather (Director, H&S and Safeguarding)
- DDSL: Jodie Brown (Service Manager)
Ruby Garnham (CSE Interventionist)
Gracie Thorne (Tutor)

In addition to this team we have a safeguarding hub that meets on a weekly basis for care and fostering and a fortnightly basis for training and action. The hub discusses any current safeguarding concerns, service users who are at risk on the risk register and react to any safeguarding related topics, as well as reviewing monthly data. Participants of this hub offer a range of knowledge and breadth of service delivery for sustained practice and implementation of our safeguarding policies and procedures. We also hold an annual safeguarding conference for the Safeguarding Team and Leadership and Management Teams.

The Safeguarding Team work alongside the Incident Management Team (IMT) to ensure all safeguarding incidents are dealt with efficiently and in line with policy, legal and contractual obligations. We have built relationships with LADO’s, other Local Authority Services and professionals as multi-agency working is vital for any safeguarding issue. External notifications are managed by the Safeguarding Team, although all staff have access to Local Authority Child Protections Teams.

The risk register is an internal register managed by the DSL, which names every service user involved in an incident. The service user is given a risk rating dependant on the severity and impact of the incidents they are involved in. The Safeguarding Team discuss ‘at risk’ service users at the hubs and any other service user that has been brought to the team’s attention as a concerning person. The Safeguarding Hub will initiate any further action required to ensure asphaleia work collaboratively to support the service user. The Leadership Team review quarterly data and work closely with the Safeguarding team on staff training and policy implementation.

