

CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Psychotherapy

Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Introduction

a) CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Psychotherapy (CIC) :

Suzanne Adamthwaite Equine Specialist
Denise Sadleir Equine Assisted Psychotherapist

Situated

The Stables, Lower Gravenhurst, Beds MK45 4HL

b) CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Psychotherapy is supported by a management advisory team with a variety and wealth of knowledge.

Our team has adopted this Safeguarding Children Policy & expects every adult working or helping at CANter to comply with it. Consequently this policy shall apply to all staff, directors or anyone working on behalf of CANter.

2. Purpose of the Policy.

- a) This policy is intended to protect children & young people who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.
- b) As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm & are committed to the protection of children & young people & this policy is intended to guide our approach to child protection & safeguarding.

3. The Risks to Children.

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate all over to estimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protecting including:

- Sexual Abuse
- Grooming
- Physical & Emotional Abuse or Neglect
- Domestic Violence
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
- Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Acts of Violence & Aggression within our schools or campuses
- Victimization
- Self Harm
- Unsafe environments & activities
- Crime
- Exploitation

4. Universality of Protection

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children regardless of race, gender, religious beliefs, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from harm.
- Some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of the circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs a level of dependency.
- Working with children, young people, the parents or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their well-being.

5. Safeguarding Children at Events/Programmes /Sessions.

The events are in relation to planned Open Days or Individual/Group Programmes or Sessions.

- a) Our events are open to children from the age of eight years old therefore they must be accompanied throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who may be a parent or carer who not only brings the child but also takes the child home again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring written consent and the mobile number from one of their parents/carers.
- b) If a loan adult brings more than one child, then children will have to stay together, so that one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent of the mobile telephone number by one of their parents or a carer.

6. Disclosure & Barring

- a) CANter offers the following activities for children & young people: Equine Assisted Learning & Psychotherapy Sessions.
- b) Our sessions are always facilitated by two adult Equine Therapists who have had DBS/Police Checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

7. Health & Safety Aspects of Safeguarding Children

- a) Before starting any event we carry out a risk assessment taking steps to minimize all risks to Health & Safety. Parents & Children will be made aware of any particular risks & of the steps being taken to minimise those risks. There will be a record of all risk assessments.
- b) Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with any emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

8. Policy on the Prevention of Bullying

We will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or other children. If any incident of child on child bullying should arise at CANter those involved will be separated immediately & the parents/carers of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. All incidents will be reviewed & assessed to ensure there is no likely future risk to children. If appropriate, CANter will consider banning a child from the event, but only in full accordance with the rules & procedures of CANter. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with by the supporting Directors of CANter.

9. CANter will adopt the following policy towards taking & using photographs at events/sessions.

CANter has an official form requesting a written signed permission to permit photos or if the participants or parents/carers do not permit photos this can be officially acknowledged & ensured.

10. Managing Behaviour, Discipline & Acceptable Restraint

- a) adults supervising children at CANter events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used— but for that purpose only.
- b) Unacceptable behaviour at CANter events for children in a group will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other & the group. The miscreants will be suitably supervised & will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents/carers.
- c) CANter may apply a further disciplinary sanction: namely the banning of the child from one or more future events over a certain period of time.
- d) A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to CANter who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of CANter is the final. Any such appeals should be made to, & will be determined by the following officer:

Suzanne Adamthwaite or Denise Sadleir

Any such allegations at all should be reported immediately to Denise Sadleir. The relevant local authority should be informed within one working day of all allegations (by contacting the Local Authority Designated Officer LADO)

Denise Sadleir

11. Information sharing

Canter will cooperate in the sharing of appropriate information based on the principles defined below:

- Information will be shared on a need to know basis when it is in the best interest of the individual and especially to protect people with care and support needs.
- Confidentiality must not be confused with secrecy
- Informed consent must be obtained, but if this is not possible and other adults are at risk, it may be necessary to override the requirement
- It is inappropriate to give absolute confidentiality in cases where there are concerns about abuse, particularly when other people may be at risk or there is a legal duty to report criminal activity.
- Any exchange of information must be in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, and Caldicott Principles

Canter will keep secure records of any work undertaken under this policy including all concerns received and all referrals made, and the Canter team are trained to:

- Identify the signs of abuse and neglect,
- how to handle a disclosure
- through induction, training and supervision.

The seriousness or extent of abuse is often not clear when anxiety is first expressed. If a member of staff or volunteer is in any way concerned, they should raise their concerns with the nominated safeguarding lead person LADO as mentioned in this policy in section 10d).