

S1 – Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy

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Related policies and/or procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Procedure • Support to Children and Parents Policy • Confidentiality & Privacy Policy • Relationship Violence Policy • Anti-Social Behaviour Policy • Managing and Reporting Incidents Policy • Banned and Risky Policy • Whistle Blowing Policy • Recruitment and Selection Policy • Visitors' Policy (local) • Centrepoint Support Model Guidance • Code of Conduct • Data Protection Policy • Computer and Internet Policy • Complaints Policy
Legislation or regulatory guidance that impact on this policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Act 2014 • Children Acts 1989 and 2004 • Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 • Drug Trafficking Act 1994 • Data Protection Act 2018 • Education Act 2002 • Equality Act 2010 • Homelessness Act 2002 • Housing Acts 1996 and 2004 • Human Rights Act 1998 • UNCRC 1989 • Mental Capacity Act 2005 • Protection of Children Act 1999 • Protection from Harassment Act 1997 • Sexual Offences Act 2003 • Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 • Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 • Modern Slavery Act 2015

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 / Serious Crimes Act 2015 • Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 • Children and Social Work Act 2017 • Working together to Safeguard Children 2018 • Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 • LA policy and procedure for safeguarding children or adults at risk
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The overall purpose of Centrepont is to help promote social inclusion and to end youth homelessness. We give homeless young people a chance to turn their lives around, build firm foundations for a fulfilling future and realise their potential. Centrepont takes all forms of abuse and relationship violence seriously.
- 1.2 Centrepont also provides support for those mothers/fathers and infants who use our services. We support other agencies in their work with homeless young people, influence local and central government, and promote public awareness of youth homelessness. As part of our work we involve young people in fundraising activities and invite our corporate donors into our services, so all teams need to know our principles of safeguarding.
- 1.3 This integrated safeguarding policy and procedure has combined the principles and processes for children (under 18 years) and adults at risk (aged 18+) on the basis that the principles and many of the processes of best safeguarding practice are similar for both groups. The term 'vulnerable adult' is being replaced in most areas by 'adult at risk'.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This safeguarding policy and procedure demonstrate Centrepont's commitment to the overall safety and welfare of all the young people for who we provide services.
- 2.2 The policy and procedures are based on principles of best practice and on current research, legislation, government and local authority guidance. The purpose is to provide **all** staff, trustees, volunteers and students with a framework and process for recognising, responding, reporting and recording any concerns about a child or adult at risk. It also intends to ensure that in the event of a concern about a child or adult at risk, the relevant

statutory authorities are involved in an appropriate and timely manner, following local and national safeguarding child or adults at risk policies and procedures.

3. Audience

3.1 Centrepoint works directly with young people between the ages of 16 and 25 years, providing support through:

- Health
- Learning
- Participation
- Housing Support
- Volunteering
- Immigration support

No matter what department, any of our staff could have a young person or adult at risk disclose a safeguarding concern.

3.2 It is vital for effective safeguarding that good liaison is established and maintained between housing, health, learning, mental health, social care and other specialist agencies. If Centrepoint staff become aware of other non-supported adults at risk through the course of their duties, they will proactively work to bring these safeguarding issues to the attention of local support services. The term 'staff' in this policy is taken to include paid or volunteer staff, trustees or students.

3.3 This policy and procedure applies to **all** trustees, staff, volunteers and students, temporary or locum staff, external visitors and partner organisations. It should form part of every induction for new staff or volunteers and for any service users of Centrepoint who go on to become volunteers or paid staff. Donors and fundraising teams should use this document to ensure their activities working with young people operate safely.

4. Terminology & Definitions

(See **S1 SD1** for further Terms and Acronyms)

4.1 The term **safeguarding** is about embedding practices throughout the organisation to make sure that children and adults at risk are protected wherever possible. In contrast, **child and adult protection** is about responding to circumstances of abuse and/or neglect that arise.

4.2 **Abuse** is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm. Abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender or culture. It can take a number of forms, including:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Psychological/Emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery

- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Exploitation

4.3 **Definition of a child**

A child is anyone under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child).

4.4 **Definition of adults at risk**

An adult at risk is a person aged 18 years or over who has care and support needs. (Care Act 2014). This **may** include a person who:

- Is elderly and frail
- Has a mental illness including dementia
- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is a substance misuser
- Is homeless

4.5 **Child protection**

This refers to activity which is carried out to protect specific children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering, significant harm.

4.6 **Duty of Care**

Duty of Care is defined simply as a legal obligation to:

- Always act in the best interest of individuals and others
- Not act or fail to act in a way that results in harm
- Act within your competence and not take on anything you do not believe you can safely do.

4.7 **Significant harm**

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm. For the purposes of Centrepoin't's response to concerns about children or vulnerable adults, this distinction is the responsibility of children's or adult's services and the police. Any decision about investigating concerns of this nature will therefore be their responsibility but Centrepoin't has a key role in influencing decisions and also contributing to any investigation and/or protection plan.

4.8 **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology (HM Government).

4.9 **Domestic Violence and Abuse**

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

4.10 **Forced Marriage and so-called 'honour-based' violence**

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning difficulties, cannot) consent to the marriage and where duress is used. 'Duress' includes psychological, sexual, financial or emotional pressure and physical violence.

So-called 'honour'-based violence is an incident or crime "which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and or the community." 'Honour' can be the motivation, excuse or justification behind a range of violence against mainly women and girls and in some cases men and boys.

4.10 **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. **Breast ironing** is a practise whereby the breasts of girls typically aged 8-16 are pounded using tools such as spatulas, grinding stones, hot stones, and hammers to delay the appearance of puberty.

4.11 **Prevent**

Places a duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

5. Risk Factors

5.1 The categories of abuse listed above in 4.2 may all present within Centrepoint services, as a result of actions of staff or volunteers, or between peers.

5.2 Young people who are referred to Centrepoint may have a history of disruption, harm or abuse. They may have been looked after by the local authority or been in youth offending institutions. They may be substance misusers, engaged in criminal activity or they may have a learning or mental health disability. Other factors may make them highly dependent and vulnerable to harm.

5.3 Young people in our services may be vulnerable to bullying or may be involved in abusive relationships either within or outside of Centrepoint. They are also vulnerable to other forms of harm such as gang membership, serious youth violence and violent extremism. There may be historical abuse, sexual exploitation, forced marriage or 'honour based' violence.

6. Legislation

(See **S1 SD2** for further information about Legislation)

6.1 Centrepoint has a responsibility to abide by all relevant UK legislation and guidance. This policy and accompanying procedure have been developed with current statute, guidance and Local Authority procedures in mind. As such and in compliance to legislation, Centrepoint will ensure all staff, trustees, volunteers and students are sufficiently trained

and provided with the skills, tools, knowledge and confidence to act in accordance to our safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

- 6.2 All staff, trustees, volunteers and students will attend safeguarding training and will be made aware of their responsibility to comply with current legislation and guidance and any new relevant legislation as it is implemented. Designated leads in safeguarding are expected to keep up to date and informed about any changes in this area.

Note: Legislation and guidance can change rapidly and this is especially true in the field of safeguarding and the protection of adults at risk and children and young people. This may be due to a change in government and policy, a serious child or vulnerable adult death and subsequent review, or to significant new research. Whilst the information contained in this document is current (March 2020), staff, trustees, volunteers and students are advised to keep themselves updated by undertaking ongoing local safeguarding training.

- 6.3 It is expected that all staff, trustees, students and volunteers will undertake refresher and or update training, workshops, briefings and/or seminars on an annual basis.

7. Participation statement

- 7.1 Centrepont is committed to involving young people and key stakeholders in how we manage and improve our direct services. When this policy or procedure is reviewed, we will endeavour to consult and involve young people/ stakeholders to consider their views.

8. Commitment to review

- 8.1 This policy, its accompanying procedures and any supporting documents will be reviewed every year or sooner where any changing legislation and/or government guidance has an impact.