

## Child Protection Policy

Horsham Matters believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment of practice, which protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy is:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive Horsham Matters services directly, as well as the children of adults using our services.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be a risk of harm.
- This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, apprentices, students or anyone working on behalf of Horsham Matters.

This policy should be read alongside our procedures on:

- Child protection procedures,
- Safer recruitment,
- E Safety,
- Anti- Bullying,
- Complaints,
- Whistleblowing,
- Health and Safety,
- Lone Working.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them,
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers,
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made,

- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers,
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately,
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

## **Contact details**

### **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)**

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