

Family Counselling Trust (FCT) - Safeguarding Policy Statement

Safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Family Counselling Trust works to:

- Safeguard the welfare of the young people we work with by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- Support the creation of an environment where young people are listened to and are encouraged to talk about themselves, their lives, and any concerns they may have.

Family Counselling Trust will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- 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.
- Maintaining effective safeguarding policies and procedures.

Family Counselling Trust recognises that children and young people may suffer abuse in different ways:

Definitions for types of abuse under the following Local Children Safeguarding Boards, to provide guidance around how to record and report the concern:

BANES: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection>

Dorset: <https://www.dorsetscb.co.uk/working-with-children/>

Hampshire: <http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/professionals/child-abuse-definitions/>

Somerset: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/safeguarding-children/report-a-child-at-risk/>

Wiltshire: <http://www.wiltshirescb.org.uk/children-and-young-people/>

Family Counselling Trust will respond to suspicions or allegations of abuse by:

Following any low risk disclosure or initial concern of abuse:

- Staff/volunteers will offer support and guidance to the young person and ensure their current safety.
- Staff/volunteers will record incidents and make the Designated Safeguarding Lead and / or Management Board aware of any potential for concern.

Relevant County Information: Following any disclosure or concern for a young person in immediate danger, counsellors/staff /volunteers will contact:

- If you believe a child is in **immediate danger**, then please **call the Police on 999**.
- **MASH** (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) is the point of contact for general safeguarding concerns:
Tel: BANES MASH: 01225 396337 Tel: Dorset MASH: 01305 228558 Hampshire MASH: 0300 555 1384 Somerset MASH: 0300 123 2224 Wiltshire MASH: 0300 456 0108

- **LADO** (Local Authority Designated Officer) - this is for concerns about an adult working with children and young people (including historic matters), please **Tel: BANES: 01225 396810 Tel: Dorset: 01305 221122 Hampshire: 01962 876364 Somerset: 01823 355803 Wiltshire: 01225 713945**
- **County Websites**: are listed on P.1 under the 'Definitions of types of abuse.'

FCT has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in each county of BANES, Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Along with the Trustee Lead for Safeguarding, the DSLs have oversight of the FCT Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

FCT will ensure that staff and volunteers are appropriately DBS checked and trained in relation to safeguarding – dates and copies of certificates of safeguarding training to be held by FCT.

If you have a non-urgent safeguarding question or wish to see our main Safeguarding Policy, please contact us via our generic email address: info@familycounsellingtrust.org.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads will be informed in the following instances:

- Whenever a report by FCT counsellors/volunteers has been made to MASH, LADO or other agencies;
- When any child being seen is on the child protection register (referrer or counsellor to inform).

Family Counselling Trust will maintain records and respect confidentiality:

Staff or volunteers will inform the management board of any issues for concern and pass them a written record of any incidents or disclosures, to be kept securely by the management board, unless due to the nature of the incident it is not appropriate to involve certain staff/volunteers or members of the management board.

Family Counselling Trust acknowledges that the welfare of the individual is paramount:

Privacy and confidentiality will be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm, then the child's safety will always come first.

Further Useful Information:

To find out more about how you can ensure the safety of young people, you are encouraged to make use of the NSPCC site: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/>

The site provides safeguarding information, advice and resources.