

Safeguarding Children Policy, May 2022

Carefree Kids 2020 is a community organisation which exists to ameliorate the emotional health of babies, children and young people and their parents/carers, mainly in the London borough of Waltham Forest, and uses a variety of therapeutic methods to this end.

Carefree Kids 2020 is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children in line with best practice and current national and local guidance and procedures. It is the duty of all paid staff, volunteers and committee members to safeguard the children and young people with whom we work at all times.

We follow national guidance, as set out in the documents Working Together to Safeguard children (2018) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Our therapeutic work is carried out in schools or community centres, in a separate room with one adult and one child. Some children whom we help have already experienced trauma and/or abuse. In our work with especially vulnerable children, we aim to offer them encouragement and hope, as well as the opportunity to disclose their situation to a sympathetic adult. Therapeutic play sessions are delivered by trained volunteers and qualified therapists. Regular weekly trained supervision is provided for all volunteers and staff delivering therapeutic intervention.

Carefree Kids 2020 approaches to safeguarding

a) The recruitment and supervision of staff and volunteers

All people working with children are required to hold an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service certificate. Carefree Kids 2020 will undertake to procure these for staff and volunteers. We also take up at least two references for all volunteers and staff, and these are checked and logged before any work with children can start.

All those working with children will attend weekly supervision groups during term time.

b) Training staff and volunteers

All volunteers and staff are required to attend annual training in child protection and safeguarding children policy and best practice.

Volunteers are trained in the skill of listening sensitively to children who might seek to express themselves about the situation they are in

This training is reinforced during weekly supervision sessions and termly study days.

c) Physical contact between adults and children

Adults should not initiate physical touching with children. Any physical touching is to be based on the needs of the child, not the adult, and should be initiated by the child. All touching must be age-appropriate. Examples of physical contact are to be brought by volunteers and staff to their weekly supervision.

d) Recognising abuse

Abuse and neglect is when someone is caused harm by an individual or group.

This harm could be physical, psychological, financial, sexual or emotional or take many other forms and can be deliberate or unintentional. Annual Safeguarding Training provided to Carefree Kids 2020 staff and volunteers will cover the different types of abuse and how to recognise them.

e) Explaining to the child about disclosure

All staff and volunteers will be trained to tell every child on beginning work with him or her that the content of sessions will be confidential unless the child gives the adult cause to suspect that the child or someone else is at risk, in which case the appropriate person from the school and organisation will be notified immediately.

f) Premises

All premises where work is carried out with children will be furnished and equipped with a view to optimal safety, e.g. electrical sockets to be covered, no glass objects.

g) Work out of doors - give context - why might work be taking place out of doors?

Every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of children, e.g. seat belts to be worn, hand to be held while crossing roads.

h) Medical emergencies

Staff and volunteers must know where and how a qualified first aider can be contacted and must have telephone numbers of parents/carers when appropriate. Information about any allergies and medical conditions of children must be available to staff and volunteers. Need to reference school policies

i) Allegations, concerns and complaints

Organisations and agencies working with children and families should have clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children. Such policies should make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

jj) Distribution of Safeguarding Policy

A copy of this policy is to be given to every Carefree Kids 2020 volunteer, paid employee and committee member, and the policy will be published on the website.

k) Safeguarding procedures

If you believe that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, you must report this without delay to the police service as a 999 emergency. The school office will support you with this. You must also tell the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

If you have concerns about a child that do not require immediate attention you should report these concerns to the school's DSL. The DSL will then follow the safeguarding procedures was set out by the school. If not working in a school setting, report your concerns to the local safeguarding team as well as to the DSL for Carefree Kids 2020, Ros Kane.

Always keep clear and objective records of any and all situations in which safeguarding concerns are apparent. **These records are to be shared with the DSL at the school or setting, and with the DSL at CFK 2020, where they will be held confidentially.**

If you need advice, you can and should seek advice from professionals. Contact the Waltham Forest Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team: [020 8496 2310](tel:02084962310).

As part of regular safeguarding training, staff and volunteers will receive training on how to deal with disclosures, including local child protection procedures and the name of the person they should inform immediately and how s/he can be contacted.

The named person within Carefree Kids 2020 (Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)) is **Ros Kane**.

I) Review of this policy

This policy will be reviewed annually at a special meeting four weeks before the Annual General Meeting, and any amendments ratified at the AGM.

Carefree Kids 2020

Policy agreed by trustees May 2022

Review date: May 2023