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Safeguarding Children Policy

Introduction

This safeguarding policy sets out how I, Katarzyna Krempa, known as Kasia protect children and young people while delivering independent speech and language therapy. I provide services in homes, schools, nurseries, and via online platforms.

As a self-employed practitioner, I am solely responsible for safeguarding within my practice. This policy reflects my commitment to promoting children's wellbeing and ensuring their safety.

Purpose of this Policy

- To safeguard children and young people receiving my services
- To promote a safe, respectful and responsive therapeutic environment
- To set out clear procedures in the event of a concern or disclosure

My Commitment

I believe:

- Every child has a right to feel safe and be protected from harm
- Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and I will work in partnership with families and professionals
- All children, regardless of background or circumstance, deserve equal protection
- Some children may be more vulnerable due to additional needs, communication barriers, or previous experiences

Safeguarding in Practice

I am committed to keeping children safe by:

- Listening to and respecting all children
- Maintaining up-to-date safeguarding training and best practice
- Following appropriate safeguarding procedures in all settings
- Protecting confidentiality, unless sharing information is required to protect a child
- Recording concerns securely, in line with data protection legislation
- Collaborating with schools or settings by following their safeguarding policies when working on-site

Procedure to Responding to Disclosures or Allegations

If a child is believed to be in immediate danger, the Police must be contacted straight away.

Where there is **no immediate risk** and a child or young person discloses abuse or raises a safeguarding concern, the following steps will be taken:

- ✓ Stay calm and listen
- ✓ Reassure them that telling someone was the right decision
- ✓ Explain that I may need to share the information to help keep them safe
- ✓ Contact the safeguarding lead if in a school or nursery
- ✓ If outside of an education setting, contact the appropriate local safeguarding service (e.g.,
MASH (or the relevant services for the county the child lives in)
- X Not ask leading questions or investigate
- X Not promise secrecy

Hertfordshire Children's Services – Safeguarding Concerns

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Tel (Office Hours): 0300 123 4043

Email: protectedreferrals.cs@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Online referral form (for professionals): <https://hscb.hertfordshire.gov.uk/concern/>

Out of hours (emergency): 0300 123 4043 (Emergency Duty Team)

I will also:

- Complete a written record of the disclosure or concern using my Incident Recording Form (Appendix 1) which will be shared with the Safeguarding Lead, or statutory services if a referral is made.
- Store records securely and share only with relevant services
- Avoid informing the alleged individual if this may increase the risk to the child

Responding to Concerns (Without Disclosure)

- Consult the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the setting (if applicable), or
- Contact the local safeguarding team for advice or referral if outside a setting
- A detailed, confidential record will be made and stored securely

Duty of Care and Confidentiality

As an independent therapist, I have a professional duty of care to every child I support. I am committed to maintaining confidentiality at all times, except where sharing information is necessary to safeguard the child or another individual from harm.

Supporting Information

- Registered with Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Membership no: RC0039524
- Member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT). Membership no: RC0039524
- Member of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice (ASLTIP). Membership no: SL038342
- Hold an Enhanced DBS check. Certificate no: 001821067137
- Hold Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance (via RCSLT)
- Registered as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Copies of documentation can be provided upon request.

Categories of Abuse

I follow national guidance in recognising signs of:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

For definitions and signs, please refer to official government safeguarding guidance (e.g., Working Together to Safeguard Children).

Incident Recording Form

An incident form is available for use in the event of a safeguarding concern. It includes:

- Date and time of incident
- Child's name and context
- Description of what was said or observed (with quotes where possible)
- Actions taken and agencies contacted
- Your name, role, signature and date

Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if needed due to changes in legislation or guidance.

Last reviewed: April 2025



Katarzyna (Kasia) Krempa

Independent Speech and Language Therapist

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Date report completed:
Your full name and role:
Child or young person's full name:
Location/situation where the incident occurred:
Other individuals present:

Please provide a clear and detailed account of what happened.

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- This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Date:

People Informed About the Incident

Please record the names and roles of everyone who has been informed or consulted in relation to this incident:

- ☐ **Safeguarding Lead (if applicable):**
- ☐ **Children's Services contact (if involved):**
- ☐ **Police (if contacted):**
- ☐ **NSPCC (if advice was sought):**
- ☐ **Parent/Carer:**
- ☐ **Child or Young Person:**
- ☐ **Other (please specify name, role, and organisation):**

Advice Given / Follow-Up Actions Taken:

Use this section to detail any guidance received and any actions carried out in response to the concern.

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Signature:

Date:

Appendix 2: Understanding Abuse and Neglect

Abuse and neglect are serious forms of harm that can affect a child's health, development, and overall wellbeing. They may involve causing direct harm or failing to act to protect a child from harm. Abuse can happen in a family, school, online, or community setting, and may be carried out by adults or other children.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- This includes causing physical harm such as hitting, shaking, burning, suffocating, or poisoning.
- Harm can also occur when a parent or carer fakes or causes illness in a child (sometimes referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional Abuse

- Ongoing emotional mistreatment that negatively affects a child's emotional development.
- This can include making a child feel worthless or unloved, limiting their ability to express themselves, or mocking how they communicate.
- It may also involve unrealistic expectations, exposure to domestic abuse, or serious bullying (including cyberbullying).
- Emotional abuse often occurs alongside other forms of abuse but can happen on its own.

Sexual Abuse

- Involves forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activities—whether or not they understand what is happening.
- This may include physical contact or non-contact abuse such as viewing sexual images, being exposed to sexual behaviour, or being groomed online.
- Perpetrators may be adults, women, or other children.

Neglect

- A long-term failure to meet a child's basic physical or emotional needs.
- Neglect can happen during pregnancy (e.g. due to substance misuse), or after birth if the child is not given proper food, clothing, shelter, supervision, healthcare, or emotional support.

Appendix 3: Recognising Possible Signs of Abuse

Physical Abuse – Possible Indicators

Physical signs:

- Unexplained or inconsistent injuries
- Bruises in unusual areas (e.g. neck, upper arms)
- Burns, bite marks, untreated wounds, or fractures
- Frequent injuries without explanation

Behavioural signs:

- Fearful of adults or medical help
- Aggressive or withdrawn behaviour
- Wearing clothes to cover up injuries
- Avoiding physical contact

Fabricated Illness:

- Where a caregiver deliberately causes or reports false illness
- Often complex and hard to identify

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

- Illegal in the UK; involves removal of female genitalia
- May be performed abroad or in secret
- Signs include ongoing pain, infections, or difficulty walking/sitting

Sexual Abuse – Possible Indicators

Physical signs:

- Genital soreness or damage
- STIs or unexplained pregnancy
- Stomach pain or unexplained weight loss/gain
- Unexplained gifts or money

Behavioural signs:

- Sexualised behaviour or knowledge not appropriate for age
- Withdrawal, anxiety, or lack of trust
- Eating disorders, self-harm, or suicidal thoughts
- Regression (e.g. bedwetting) or restlessness

Emotional Abuse – Possible Indicators

Signs may include:

- Low self-esteem and constant self-blame
- Delays in speech, development, or learning
- Overly compliant or clingy behaviour
- Fear of making mistakes or trying new things
- Self-harming or withdrawn behaviour
- Passive or aggressive extremes

Neglect – Possible Indicators

Physical signs:

- Constant tiredness, poor hygiene, or untreated medical conditions
- Inadequate clothing or frequent hunger
- Failure to grow or thrive (without medical cause)

Behavioural signs:

- Stealing food or scavenging
- Missing school often or arriving late
- Struggling to form relationships
- Acting out or showing destructive behaviour
- Frequent injuries or accidents

Appendix 4: References and Source Guidance

This policy draws upon guidance from the following:

- HM Government. (2018). *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*
- NSPCC Learning (www.nspcc.org.uk) – Recognising signs of abuse and neglect
- GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – *Keeping children safe in education*
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) safeguarding resources
- Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) procedures and advice