**Child Protection Statement – Illuminate Care**

At Illuminate Care, we are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment where the welfare and well-being of children and young people are paramount. Our child protection policies and procedures are designed to safeguard all children in our care, ensuring they are protected from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We recognise our legal and ethical responsibilities in accordance with the **Children Act 1989 and 2004, the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023**, and relevant safeguarding legislation and best practices. All staff members, regardless of role, share a collective duty to ensure that children are safe, respected, and supported in their development.

**Our Commitment to Safeguarding Children**

Illuminate Care ensures that:

* The welfare of children is our primary concern, and we operate with a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
* Robust recruitment procedures are in place to ensure that all staff, volunteers, and associates undergo enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks before engaging in work with children.
* All staff receive safeguarding and child protection training, which is updated regularly to ensure best practices are maintained.
* We provide a safe and inclusive environment where children feel confident to speak out and share concerns, knowing they will be taken seriously.
* A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy safeguarding officers are appointed to oversee child protection concerns and ensure compliance with safeguarding protocols.
* Any concerns about a child’s welfare are responded to swiftly and effectively, following established referral processes to external safeguarding agencies such as Children’s Social Care, Local Safeguarding Partnerships, and the Police when necessary.
* Risk assessments and safeguarding protocols are implemented across all services to identify, prevent, and manage potential risks to children’s safety and well-being.
* Confidentiality and information-sharing protocols are followed to ensure that safeguarding concerns are handled professionally while prioritizing the child’s best interests.

**Reporting Concerns**

Illuminate Care encourages a culture of openness and accountability where all staff, volunteers, and young people know how to report concerns about abuse, neglect, or misconduct. Any suspicions or disclosures of harm must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will assess and escalate the matter following statutory safeguarding procedures.

**Partnership Working**

We work in collaboration with external agencies, including social services, health professionals, law enforcement, and educational institutions, to ensure that children receive timely intervention and appropriate support. Multi-agency working is key to our safeguarding strategy, ensuring a holistic approach to child protection.

**Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

Illuminate Care regularly reviews and updates safeguarding policies to align with legislative changes, best practices, and feedback from children, staff, and safeguarding bodies. We actively encourage staff and stakeholders to contribute to the continuous improvement of our safeguarding culture.

**Conclusion**

Safeguarding children is everyone’s responsibility at Illuminate Care. By maintaining strong safeguarding policies, rigorous training, and a proactive approach to child protection, we remain committed to ensuring that every child in our care is safe, supported, and empowered to thrive.

This statement aligns with national safeguarding legislation and best practices and serves as a guiding principle in our daily operations, reflecting our unwavering commitment to protecting children and young people.

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