



## **Vulnerable Children & Adults Protection Policy**

THE HARMONY THERAPY TRUST is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people (both children and adults) who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. The Trustees, Therapists and Volunteers of The Harmony Therapy Trust have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

### **Definition**

Vulnerable children are from new born, infants up to 18 years of age and adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

### **Abuse can include:**

- physical,
- financial,
- material,
- sexual,
- psychological,
- discriminatory,
- emotional abuse
- neglect.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetrated by anyone.

### **Rights & Responsibilities**

#### **Responsibilities of The Board of Trustees are:**

- To ensure volunteers are aware of the needs of protection of vulnerable people
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected
- To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability

- To encourage wherever possible for a parent, guardian or carer to be present when the vulnerable client-patient receives treatment or another person if a relative is not available
- To Criminal Records Board (CRB) now known as Disclosure & Barring Service (BDS) check volunteers that have access to or work with Vulnerable Children & Adults

**Responsibilities of The Harmony Therapy Trust's Trustees, Therapists and Volunteers:**

- To be familiar with the vulnerable children & adult protection policy
- To take appropriate action in line with the policy of The Harmony Therapy Trust
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

**Support for those who report abuse**

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are Trustees, therapists, volunteers, client-patients, parent, guardian or carers & members of the general public should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk

**The Vulnerable Adult has the right:**

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate
- To receive information about the outcome

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

**THIS VULNERABLE CHILDREN & ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY** detailed was agreed and minuted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees and signed by the Chair on

In the Chair.....

Date: .....