



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Awareness Centre (TAC) understands and defines Safeguarding as an important part of the organisation to support clients' welfare and wellbeing, including children.

TAC Safeguarding recognises and follows the 6 Safeguarding principles below, as outlined in the Care Act 2014, which underpin all safeguarding work.

1. Empowerment – Personalisation and presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent
2. Prevention – It is better to take action before harm occurs
3. Proportionality – Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
4. Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need
5. Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities
6. Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

TAC has a responsibility to both clients' and therapists' safety. Measures are in place to support safe and responsible lone working. All clients are triaged before entering our counselling services. All TAC therapists are covered by TAC's Certificate of Professional Liability insurance, are enhanced DBS registered and a verified member of a counselling professional body. In addition, private therapists hold professional indemnity insurance.

Confidentiality

TAC offers confidential counselling services to its clients in accordance with the ethical requirements of the BACP. Clients may disclose personal information with a therapist and feel confident to do this if they are reassured their personal information will be discussed and recorded in confidence. However, TAC believes the need to protect vulnerable adults and children safe from abuse takes precedence over the usual commitment to confidentiality and this should always clearly be stated at the start of any therapy.

Abuse can be defined as emotional, physical, sexual or neglect which knowingly or unwittingly may cause harm, endangers life or violates rights.

Record Keeping

All records pertaining to employed staff, consultants, supervisors, private therapists, placement counsellors, facilitators, tutors, training students, and clients are securely stored electronically and maintained in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

Raising a Concern

TAC employed staff and therapists are expected to be aware of the need for Safeguarding and how it applies to their work with TAC. They are required to take all reasonable measures to ensure the risks of harm to vulnerable adults and children are minimised. Where concerns exist about children or vulnerable adults' welfare, they are required and expected to take appropriate actions in line with the existing TAC Reporting and Managing Risk protocol.

If a member of the public has a safeguarding concern, they should inform a member of the TAC team.

Training

Safeguarding training, including best practice guidelines for potential dangerous and violent situations is provided by TAC to the TAC team. Where necessary TAC will support individual therapists to work with other agencies in the interests of the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Ethical Practice

The Awareness Centre are governed by the BACP Ethical Framework and all TAC therapists are clinically supervised.

Clients and members of the public should be confident TAC and all its employed staff and therapists meet the appropriate BACP professional standards, and always will endeavour to provide a safe, confidential, knowledgeable and accountable service in accordance with Safeguarding legislation.