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Safeguarding Children and Young Adults Policy

Transfigurations believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

1. Transfigurations recognises that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount and this applies to all children/young people regardless of:-
- Age, colour, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race or religious belief and that they have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

2. The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive any services from Transfigurations, including the children of adult members or users.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.
- See also our Confidentiality Policy regarding reporting abuse to external organisations.

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Transfigurations.

3. Transfigurations will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- Please also see our Confidentiality Policy regarding reporting abuse to external organisations.

4. Child Protection at meetings:

- Whilst we welcome trans children and trans youth attending, in the case of children under the age of 13, we would only allow children of this age range to attend meetings if at least one of their parents (or legal guardians) attends those meetings with them.
- For trans youth between the ages of 13 to 16, then we would insist that a parent (or legal guardian) comes with that person at their first and second meetings and then, subject to their parent's (or guardian's) written permission, they may attend on their own.

5. Child Protection for our online internet forums:

- Our web forums are COPPA compliant
- Children under the age of 13 have to download a parental consent form which must be signed and returned to Transfigurations for approval before access to the forums is granted.
- All children under the age of 16 are restricted to only the Young People's sub-forum.
- The only adults who are allowed in that forum are the forums creator (Carol Steele) and the moderator (herself the mother of a transgender child). Both of these persons have been DBS checked.
- Parents who have a transgender child who is a member of the Young People's sub-forum will also be given access to the forum as an added safeguard for their child.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice as and when required.