**Safeguarding Children**

**The purpose of this policy is to protect children and young people who receive therapeutic play through this service.**

**What does this mean?**

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm, including whilst not exhaustive:

* Protection from abuse and maltreatment
* Preventing harm to childrens health or development
* Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
* Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Current legislation applies to all children up to the age of 18 years

**How is this achieved?**

My enhanced DBS is available on request for clients, or their parent/carer. This details that I have no criminal convictions, and am not barred from working with children.

Safeguarding children, level 3 training will be updated 3 yearly to ensure that I remain abreast of current standards. This will include PREVENT.

When assessing safeguarding concerns consideration is given to the Continuum of Need. Further details of which can be found at [The Continuum of Need | East Sussex County Council](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/children-families/professional-resources/continuum-of-need/about)

Clinical supervision enables me to discuss any safeguarding concerns that may arise.

**Referral Procedure**

Within East Sussex all referrals are made to the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Board, Single Point of Access (SPOA) on **01323 464 222**Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Out of hours, with serious concerns that cannot wait until the next working day, contact Emergency Duty Service. Telephone: **01273 335 906** or **01273 335 905**Monday to Thursday 5pm to 8.30am and Friday's, weekend's and bank holiday's after 4.30pm to 8.30am
Email: [0–19SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contact-us?name=0%E2%80%9319SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk&email=0-19.spoa&domain=eastsussex.gov.uk) (contact form)

I will inform the client, and their parent/carer that a referral will be completed. The exception to this is if the client is deemed to be at risk of harm from their disclosure.

On completing a referral, this will be recorded and stored separately to the client’s notes until the age of their 25th birthday.

**Allegations of abuse against therapist**

In the first instance you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the therapist.

If, as a parent/carer you wish to seek advice/ guidance or report an allegation this can be done so through the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board, Single Point of Access (SPOA) on **01323 464 222**Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Out of hours, with serious concerns that cannot wait until the next working day, contact Emergency Duty Service. Telephone: **01273 335 906** or **01273 335 905**Monday to Thursday 5pm to 8.30am and Friday's, weekend's and bank holiday's after 4.30pm to 8.30am
Email: [0–19SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contact-us?name=0%E2%80%9319SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk&email=0-19.spoa&domain=eastsussex.gov.uk) (contact form)

Alternatively you may wish to complain to the registered body, Play Therapy UK on 01825 761143