



## **Child Protection Policy**

### **Children, Young People and Families**

Keeping all children and young people safe is our most important goal at Mentoring Plus. Our Child Protection policy helps us to do this.

A policy is a set of ideas or plans that are used to help make decisions.

Our policy follows laws in our country and needs to be followed by everyone involved in Mentoring Plus. We hope by reading this you understand how we will work to keep you safe.

### **A safe and friendly space**

We want to make sure our team make Mentoring Plus a welcoming, safe, and enjoyable experience for you. If you have any questions you want to ask or concerns you want to discuss, or there is anything you are unhappy about, we want you to feel safe to talk.

We want to treat you as an individual, with your own unique strengths and qualities. Our staff will work to get to know you individually so we can best work with you.

### **Children and young people's rights**

The law states that young people have certain rights, including the right to be listened to and to talk about any worries they may have. You also have the right to be protected if you are in danger, or at risk of harm.

You should feel able to approach your Mentoring Plus mentor or practitioner without worrying about what might happen. This will make it easier for them to help you.

### **Our Staff and Volunteers**

We work hard with the Council to make sure that all our staff and volunteers are trained well to work with you in a safe way. This includes training before they start working with you, and support throughout their time mentoring you.

## **Protecting you from harm**

We will do our very best to protect you from harm during your time at Mentoring Plus. We may also help if we believe you are at risk of harm in other parts of your life.

If you tell us that you have been harmed, or we are worried you are, we will take this seriously, and we may need to tell other professionals outside of Mentoring Plus.

If you want to tell your mentor or practitioner about someone harming you, we will listen and take notes of what you tell us. This will be shared with a manager, who will decide with your practitioner whether anyone else needs to be informed.

We won't gossip about your life and will only tell others inside or outside of Mentoring Plus if it feels essential. Sometimes we may need to contact the people who referred you, or the Council's Social Care team if the harm seems very worrying.

## **What if we disagree?**

Sometimes you might not agree with what we have decided to do with information about harm. If there is a concern about you being at risk of harm, we will try to tell you what we have decided to do before telling other people.

## **More Information**

We hope this helps give you an idea of how we work to keep you safe. If you have any questions or would like to read our full child protection policy or any other policies please let your practitioner know.

Last reviewed: August 2023

Next review: August 2026