



Bedford Open Door. 120 Tavistock Street, Bedford MK40 2SA.

Tel: 01234 360388 Fax: 01234 346946 Email: counselling@bedfordopendoor.org.uk Website: www.bedfordopendoor.org.uk

Bedford Open Door Safeguarding Children Policy

Bedford Open Door 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.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief,
- sexual orientation or identity, 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.

The purpose of the policy:

- To state the commitment of Bedford Open Door to provide protection for the children and young people who receive our services, 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. To be read in conjunction with Bedford Open Door's Child Protection policy and Stepped approach.

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 Bedford Open Door

We 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 within the guidelines of Bedford Open Door Child protection policy and Stepped approach.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every five years.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....