



## Safeguarding Policy for Connective Strength Family Preservation Services

### Introduction

Connective Strength is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults engaged with our Family Preservation services and our professional training programs. This safeguarding policy outlines our approach to protecting individuals from harm and ensuring a safe environment for all service users and trainees, in alignment with the BACP safeguarding guidelines (2024) and our service model.

### Scope

This policy applies to all Connective Strength staff, including therapists, supervisors, trainers, and any other professionals involved in the delivery of our services and training programs. It covers the safeguarding of children, young people, vulnerable adults, and trainees who are either directly or indirectly engaged with our services and educational offerings.

### Safeguarding Principles

- **Best Interests of the Child:** The welfare of children and young people is paramount. All actions and decisions will be made with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration.
- **Confidentiality:** While confidentiality is crucial in our therapeutic work and training environments, the safety of the child or vulnerable adult will take precedence over confidentiality when there is a risk of harm. Information will be shared appropriately and lawfully to protect those at risk.
- **Multi-Agency Collaboration:** Effective safeguarding requires coordinated efforts across multiple agencies. We will actively collaborate with local authorities, CAMHS, social services, and other relevant bodies to ensure comprehensive support and protection for our service users and trainees.
- **Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) and Trauma-Informed Practice:** Our approach is rooted in NVR and trauma-informed practices, focusing on building safe, structured environments where children, parents, and trainees can develop resilience and healthy relational dynamics.

- **Prevention of Harm:** Our interventions and training programs are designed to prevent harm by addressing the contextual safeguarding issues surrounding harmful behaviours, patterns of escalation, and safe adult presence. This proactive approach is central to our safeguarding strategy.

## **Safeguarding Procedures**

- **Identification and Reporting of Concerns:**
  - All staff and trainers are trained to recognise signs of abuse, neglect, or harm.
  - Any concerns must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
  - The DSL will assess the concern and take appropriate action, which may include reporting to local authorities or other safeguarding bodies.
- **Safe Recruitment and Supervision:**
  - We ensure that all staff, including those involved in training, undergo rigorous background checks, including DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks.
  - Regular supervision and training are provided to ensure that all staff and trainers remain vigilant and informed about safeguarding issues.
- **Responding to Disclosures:**
  - If a service user or trainee discloses information about potential abuse or harm, staff and trainers will respond calmly, listen without judgment, and ensure that the individual feels supported.
  - The disclosure will be documented and reported to the DSL for further action.
- **Intervention Strategies:**
  - Our services and training programs employ evidence-based intervention strategies such as NVR to mitigate the risk of harm and address behavioural issues that could lead to unsafe situations.
  - Therapeutic interventions and training are provided in safe, controlled environments with a focus on emotional regulation and reducing harmful behaviours.
- **Monitoring and Review:**
  - Safeguarding practices are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain effective and up-to-date with current guidelines.
  - Feedback from service users, trainees, and staff is incorporated into the review process to continually improve our safeguarding measures.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The DSL for Connective Strength is Kerry Shoesmith, who is responsible for overseeing all safeguarding matters, including training, reporting, and multi-agency coordination. The DSL will ensure that all safeguarding concerns are managed promptly and in accordance with legal and ethical guidelines.