



## BWYQ Safeguarding Children Policy

Although BWYQ does not routinely work with those under the age of 18, we are committed to practices and procedures that support safe environments for children and young people. We take our responsibility to raise awareness of the issues surrounding safeguarding children and young people within the yoga community very seriously.

Whilst BWYQ qualifications are aimed at teaching individuals over the age of 18, it is possible that during the course of their study some BWYQ learners may encounter children and young people. Whilst unlikely, this does mean that during assessment and quality assurance activities staff from BWYQ recognised Centres and BWYQ EQA officers may come into contact with children and young people.

This policy document sets out how BWYQ approach ~~the~~ their duty of care towards children and young people.

BWYQ believe that;

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that;

- the welfare of children is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### What is safeguarding children?

The Children's Act (1989; Section 105) defines children as people under the age of 18. Throughout this policy the terms child or young person will be used to denote anyone under the age of 18.

The UK government policy document, Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2018) defines safeguarding as;

- *protecting children from maltreatment*
- *preventing impairment of children's health or development*

- *ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care*
- *taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes*

(page 6)

## The purpose and scope of this policy

Everyone connected with BWYQ has a responsibility to uphold the principles outlined.

The purpose of this policy is to provide BWYQ staff and trustees, recognised Centre staff and learners, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding children and young people.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of BWYQ and BWYQ recognised Centres, as well as to learners registered for BWYQ qualifications. Learners should also be made aware of their Centre's safeguarding children policy.

The BWYQ Safeguarding Children Policy should be read alongside the following policies;

BWYQ Safeguarding Adults Policy

BWYQ Whistleblowing Policy

BWYQ Equality and Diversity Policy

BWYQ Complaints Policy

BWYQ Data Protection Policy

## Review arrangements

This policy and its associated procedures will be reviewed annually as part of BWYQ self-evaluation arrangements and may also be revised in response to customer, learner or regulatory feedback.

Please contact BWYQ via the details provided below if you would like to provide feedback.

## The legal basis of this policy

The legal foundation of the BWYQ Safeguarding Children policy is;

- The Children's Act (1989 and 2004)
- The Protection of Children Act (1999)
- The Human Rights Act (1989)
- Working together to safeguard children (HM Government 2018)
- The Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Equality Act (2010)

## Identifying abuse

There are four key types of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. This can be both direct, i.e. a person doing this to a child, or indirect, i.e. a person failing to prevent another from abusing a child.

Physical abuse can be a physical act such as hitting, shaking, throwing, suffocating, poisoning, burning or scalding, It can also be when a parent or someone in a parental role, manufactures or deliberately creates symptoms of, an illness or condition.

Possible indicators of physical abuse include, but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bruising
- Finger marks or bite marks (human)
- Burns and scalds
- Fractures
- Untreated or unexplained injuries
- Child displaying aggression
- Child showing fear of adults/physical contact
- Child is withdrawn

Sexual abuse is defined as forcing or enticing a child to participate in sexual activities. These may involve some form of physical contact; touching, rubbing, penetration etc or children viewing sexual acts, 'flashing', images etc.

Possible indicators of sexual abuse include, but are not limited to;

- Soreness or injuries to genitalia, mouth or anus
- Unexplained urinary tract infections or sexually transmitted diseases
- Age inappropriate sexual knowledge or behaviours
- Personality changes/becoming withdrawn/changes on concentration/unexplained aggression etc
- Distrustful of adults

Emotional abuse, sometimes referred to as psychological abuse, is defined as persistent emotional maltreatment of a child that causes severe and/or long term effects on development. This could include

- Making the child feel worthless, inadequate, unloved or valueless
- Preventing a child from expressing themselves emotionally or giving their views
- Belittling what they do or say
- Placing inappropriate expectations upon a child
- Restricting or preventing social interaction
- Acting in a way that persistently leaves a child scared

Possible indicators of emotional abuse include, but are not limited to;

- Physical, mental and/or developmental delays
- Over reactions/inappropriate emotional responses to mistakes or situations
- Persistent self-deprecation/low self-esteem
- Self-harm
- Behaviours such as hair-twisting, rocking etc
- Drug/solvent abuse

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's fundamental physical and psychological needs.

Possible indicators of neglect include, but are not limited to;

- child is constantly hungry and/or emaciated
- inadequate or seasonally inappropriate clothing
- child left unattended
- child is constantly tired
- child has no/poor social relationships and/or low self-esteem
- evidence of scavenging/stealing
- poor hygiene
- untreated medical problems

It is important to be aware of some more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

## Keeping children and young people safe

BWYQ will seek to do this by;

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- appointing a named person for safeguarding and a named trustee for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing guidance, support and quality assurance measures so that everyone involved with BWYQ knows about and follows our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- ensuring that all necessary checks are in place for learners, centres and staff who may come into contact with children
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a question about sharing concerns and relevant information with agencies involving children, young people, parents, families and carers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff, centres or learners appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, staff, centres and learners, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where everyone treats each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## Prevent

Learners completing BWYQ qualifications may be student-teachers in a range of settings, and so may be subject to additional requirements such as Prevent.

### The Prevent duty

Some organisations in England, Scotland and Wales have a duty, as a specified authority under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, to identify vulnerable children and young people and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty. These organisations include:

- Schools
- Registered childcare providers
- Local authorities
- Police
- Prisons and probation services
- NHS trusts and foundations.
- Other organisations may also have Prevent duties if they perform delegated local authority functions.

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme.

**Radicalisation** is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

## Training and Awareness

BWYQ will offer guidance on an appropriate level of safeguarding training to its trustees, employees, Centres and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors). However, it is expected that, in the first instance, Centre staff and learners will access the training and guidance provided by their Centre.

At a minimum any training should enable them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children.
- Recognise a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Have knowledge of their Centre Safeguarding Children Policy.

Similarly, employees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an adult at risk of abuse. For more information about adults safeguarding, refer to BWYQ 010a Adult Safeguarding Policy.

## Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

BWYQ expects all employees, trustees, centres and learners to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **with police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**.

## Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding a child with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). See BWYQ Data Protection Policy/

## Safe Recruitment & Selection

BWYQ is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

Enhanced disclosures will be required for anyone who will be working directly with children, including those completing quality assurance activities that involve observing classes.

## Photographs

BWYQ maintains a policy that children and young people should not be photographed without the explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities. If an image of child is essential to provide evidence of attainment of specific assessment criteria then learners should follow Centre procedures for gaining consent.

## Whistleblowing

It is important that people within BWYQ have the confidence to come forward to speak or act even if they feel compromised or are concerned that their position might be jeopardised. Whistleblowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrongdoing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another employee or trustee (see BWYQ 011 Whistleblowing Policy).

## What to do if you have a concern about a child or young person

BWYQ recognises their duty to act on any concerns, reports or suspicions of potential abuse.

**In the first instance learners and Centre staff should follow the procedures set out in their Centre safeguarding children policy.**

If, for any reason, that is not possible, or if you are a BWYQ employee or trustee or are contracted by BWYQ then the procedure below should be followed.

If a child discloses abuse directly then;

- Remain calm and avoid emotional reactions to what you are being told.
- Listen to what is being said, without directing, rushing or probing
- Reassure the child
- Do not promise to keep what they say confidential and explain that you will need to share the information with others who can help
- If this constitutes an emergency situation (to ensure the safety/well-being of the child then contact the police/ambulance using 999. If not inform the BWYQ safeguarding named person, or, if this would result in a detrimental delay, report the safeguarding concern directly to the relevant local authority
- Write down what was said/what you witnessed clearly and accurately as soon as possible.

The NSPCC run a free 24 hour helpline where you can get advice at any point. They can be contacted on 0808 800 5000

Reporting a safeguarding concern

- Contact the BWYQ safeguarding lead for advice (contact details can be found at the end of this policy) **OR**
- Contact your local authority designated officer via the local authority customer service centre directly and follow the procedures they outline.
- Keep a clear and accurate record of what you have done.

### **Discussing concerns with parents or those in a parental role.**

Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2018) emphasises the importance of working in partnership with all parties. It is often the case that discussing concerns with parents will be beneficial and perhaps provide the necessary explanations for your concern. However, there are occasions when doing this could place the child at greater risk (e.g. when the parent or person in a parental role is the suspected abuser). In these situations, first of all seek advice from the NSPCC hotline, police, local authority or BWYQ safeguarding lead.

## **Important Contacts:**

### **Safeguarding Lead**

Name: Jenny Howsam

Email address: [bwyqcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:bwyqcoordinator@gmail.com)

### **Trustee for Safeguarding Compliance**

Name: Laura Bissell

Email address: [laurabissell16@hotmail.com](mailto:laurabissell16@hotmail.com)

**Police**

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

**NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000



## Appendix

### Reporting Procedures Flow Chart

<p>You have a safeguarding concern.</p>
<p>If you are a learner or recognised Centre employee, follow the procedures set out by your Centre. If you are a BWYQ employee, trustee or contracted by BWYQ, follow the procedure below.</p>
<p>Does the child or young person need immediate police or medical attention?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yes - call 999</li> <li>● No - contact the BWYQ Safeguarding lead</li> </ul>
<p>Write a clear and accurate account of what you have been told/witnessed.</p>
<p>If you need to contact your local authority designated officer directly, then call you local authority service desk.</p>
<p>Keep a clear and accurate record of all actions you have taken.</p>
<p>If you need advice at any stage of this process, you can contact the NSPCC 24 hour helpline on 0808 800 5000</p>

<b>Document History</b>		
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