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### ****Safeguarding Policy for Teen Life Coach****

**1. Policy Statement** The safety and well-being of children and young people are of paramount importance in my life coaching practice. I am committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all clients and ensuring that any safeguarding concerns are dealt with promptly and effectively. This policy outlines the procedures I will follow to protect children from harm, abuse, or neglect and ensure compliance with UK safeguarding laws, including the **Children Act 1989** and **2004**.

**2. Purpose of the Policy** This safeguarding policy is designed to:

* Protect children and young people (under 18) who receive my coaching services.
* Provide staff, parents, and guardians with clear guidelines on the procedures I will follow in case of safeguarding concerns.
* Comply with statutory safeguarding requirements in England.

**3. Definitions**

* **Safeguarding:** Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they grow up in a safe environment.
* **Child Protection:** Activities undertaken to protect children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

**4. Roles and Responsibilities** As a sole practitioner, I am the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** responsible for:

* Recognizing and responding to safeguarding concerns.
* Reporting any safeguarding issues to the appropriate authorities.
* Keeping up-to-date with safeguarding training and knowledge.
* Ensuring the confidentiality and security of sensitive information related to safeguarding.

**5. Recognizing Abuse and Neglect** I am trained to recognize signs of potential abuse, which may include:

* **Physical Abuse:** Unexplained injuries, bruising, or signs of physical harm.
* **Emotional Abuse:** Extreme withdrawal, anxiety, or fear of failure.
* **Sexual Abuse:** Inappropriate sexual behaviour or knowledge beyond the child’s age.
* **Neglect:** Poor hygiene, malnutrition, or consistent lack of care.

**6. Reporting Concerns** If I suspect that a child is at risk of harm, I will:

1. **Listen to the child** and provide reassurance without asking leading questions.
2. **Record the details** of the conversation, including dates, times, and any observable facts.
3. **Report the concern** to the appropriate local safeguarding authority or the police if there is immediate danger. Contact information for local safeguarding authorities will be kept on file.
4. **Contact the NSPCC** (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) for advice if unsure about the next steps.

**7. Confidentiality** Confidentiality will be maintained at all times, except where there is a risk of harm to the child. In such cases, information may be shared with relevant agencies following the guidance of **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)**.

**8. Parental Involvement** Where appropriate, and unless it may put the child at further risk, I will seek to involve the child’s parent or guardian when a safeguarding concern is raised.

**9. DBS Checks** I will hold an up-to-date **Enhanced DBS Check** to ensure suitability for working with children and young people. This check will be updated regularly to maintain compliance with legal requirements.

**10. Safeguarding Training** I commit to regularly updating my safeguarding knowledge and attending training as required to ensure the safety of children in my care.

**11. Complaints and Allegations** If an allegation is made against me regarding safeguarding, I will:

* Take the allegation seriously and immediately stop any interactions with the child in question.
* Report the allegation to the local authority’s **Designated Officer for Allegations (LADO)** and follow their guidance.
* Cooperate fully with any investigation and maintain professional conduct throughout.

**12. Review of Policy** This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are any significant changes in legislation or best practice.

**Date of Policy: 12th September 2024**
**Next Review Date: 12th September 2025**

**Signed:**
**Role:** Natasha Hawkes, Life Coach