

Violet Play Therapy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Last updated: January 2026

Next review due: January 2027

1. Policy Statement

Children and young people may be vulnerable to abuse, neglect, or exploitation within their families or from individuals they encounter in their everyday lives. Violet Play Therapy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who access our services.

Safeguarding is defined 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; and taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes (*Working Together to Safeguard Children*, 2018).

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff, therapists, volunteers, and anyone working on behalf of Violet Play Therapy. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and all individuals have a duty to take reasonable steps to protect children from harm, abuse, neglect, and ill-treatment.

3. Aims of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities
- Prevent, as far as reasonably possible, all forms of abuse, neglect, and harm to children
- Provide clear procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns and child disclosures
- Promote a culture of vigilance where children's welfare is always prioritised

4. Legal Framework and Guidance

This policy is informed by relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including but not limited to:

- Children Act 1989 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>)
- Children Act 2004 (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/pdfs/ukpga_20040031_en.pdf)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges September 2018 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741314/Keeping_Children_Safe_in_Education_3_September_2018_14.09.18.pdf)

- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (July 2018)
(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)
- Data Protection Act (2018)
(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/pdfs/ukpga_20180012_en.pdf)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991)
(<https://www.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/131.-CRC-poster-A2-1pp-AW.pdf>)
- Sexual offences Act (2003)
(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/pdfs/ukpga_20030042_en.pdf)

5. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Violet Play Therapy is committed to providing services that are inclusive and accessible. Every child will be treated equally and fairly, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, disability, language, or socio-economic or cultural background.

We recognise that some children may be more vulnerable due to adverse life experiences, trauma, disabilities, or special educational needs. Additional care and consideration will be given to safeguard these children effectively.

6. Working in Partnership

Effective safeguarding requires partnership working. Violet Play Therapy is committed to working collaboratively with parents/carers, schools, local authorities, and other relevant agencies to promote children's welfare and protect them from harm.

7. Safer Recruitment and Training

To ensure safe practice:

- All staff and volunteers must hold an enhanced, up-to-date DBS check
- Safeguarding training is mandatory and updated regularly
- Staff and volunteers are expected to remain vigilant and always follow safeguarding procedures.

8. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns and Disclosures

If a child discloses abuse or a safeguarding concern arises, staff and volunteers must:

- Listen calmly and attentively
- Respect and value what the child says
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing

- Avoid asking leading questions or making assumptions
- Take the disclosure seriously
- Record the information accurately and factually, using the child's own words where possible
- Not promise confidentiality or secrecy

Staff must explain to the child, in an age-appropriate way, that the information must be shared with a safeguarding professional to help keep them safe.

Reporting Procedures

Violet Play Therapy has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. All safeguarding concerns must be acted upon promptly, appropriately, and in the best interests of the child.

Immediate Action

If a child is at **immediate risk of significant harm** or requires urgent medical attention:

- Emergency services must be contacted by calling **999**.
- The concern must then be reported to Children's Social Care as soon as possible.
- Internal safeguarding procedures must be followed and recorded.

Raising a Safeguarding Concern

Any member of staff or volunteer who has a concern about a child's welfare must:

- Act without delay
- Share the concern with the organisation's **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**
- Record the concern accurately, factually, and contemporaneously

9. Types of Child Abuse

There are four main categories of child abuse.

9.1 Physical Abuse

Physical abuse involves deliberately causing physical harm to a child.

Examples include: hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating, or causing illness.

Possible indicators include:

Physical signs:

- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- Injuries in unusual locations

- Bruising resembling hand or finger marks
- Bite marks, cigarette burns, fractures
- Scalds with clear patterns or tide marks

Behavioural signs:

- Aggression or frequent temper tantrums
- Fear of parents/carers or reluctance to go home
- Running away
- Overreaction to touch
- Withdrawal, anxiety, or low mood

9.2 Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child that adversely affects emotional development.

This may include:

- Constant criticism, rejection, or humiliation
- Preventing emotional expression
- Inappropriate expectations or interactions
- Overprotection that restricts independence
- Limiting social interaction, play, or learning

9.3 Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This includes:

- Physical contact, including penetrative and non-penetrative acts
- Non-contact activities such as exposure to sexual images or pornography
- Encouraging or coercing sexually inappropriate behaviour or language

9.4 Neglect

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

This may include:

- Inadequate food, clothing, or hygiene
- Lack of supervision or unsafe living conditions
- Failure to provide medical care
- Failure to protect from harm or abuse
- Lack of emotional warmth, care, and attention

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains compliant with current legislation, guidance, and best safeguarding practice.

Useful contact details

Violet Play Therapy Designed Safeguarding Lead (DSL) contact details:

Sadiye Akalin

Email: violetplaytherapy@gmail.com

Tel.no: 07565 132317

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Contacts

Cambridgeshire Social Care Team: 0345 0455203 (Monday to Friday, 8 am-5 pm)

Cambridgeshire emergency duty team: 01733 234724

Cambridgeshire Police

Non-emergency: 101 — for non-urgent reporting or enquiries

Emergency: 999 — for immediate danger or life-threatening situations

ChildLine: 0800 1111

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Helpline: 0808 800 5000 — for adults concerned about a child's welfare.

Email: help@NSPCC.org.uk