The Listening Path - Safeguarding Policy

(a service within Best Foot Forward)

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1. Statement of Commitment
The Listening Path is a counselling and emotional wellbeing service delivered as part of Best Foot Forward.
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable individuals in line with Best Foot Forward's safeguarding policies and procedures.
Safeguarding is central to all aspects of our work.

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2. Relationship to Best Foot Forward
The Listening Path operates within the safeguarding framework of Best Foot Forward.
This means:
All safeguarding concerns are managed in line with Best Foot Forward policies
Safeguarding procedures, reporting routes, and responsibilities follow Best Foot Forward guidance
The Listening Path contributes to a consistent, organisation-wide approach to safeguarding

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3. Scope
This policy applies to:
Counselling sessions delivered through The Listening Path
Work with children, young people, and vulnerable adults
All delivery formats (in-person, online, telephone)

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4. Safeguarding Principles
The Listening Path will:
Provide a safe and supportive environment
Listen to and take seriously any concerns raised
Act promptly where there are safeguarding concerns
Work collaboratively with Best Foot Forward and relevant services
Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the individual at all times

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5. Confidentiality and Safeguarding
Counselling is confidential; however:
Confidentiality will be broken if there is a concern about risk of harm.
In such cases:
Concerns will be shared in line with Best Foot Forward safeguarding procedures
Information will be shared with appropriate services where necessary
Wherever possible, this will be explained to the young person and/or parent/carer

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6. Responding to Concerns
If a safeguarding concern arises, The Listening Path will:
Listen and respond appropriately
Record concerns accurately
Follow Best Foot Forward safeguarding procedures
Share concerns with designated safeguarding leads and relevant agencies
This may include:
Local authority safeguarding teams
Social care
Emergency services

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7. Working with Parents, Carers and Professionals
The Listening Path may work alongside:
Parents and carers
Schools and SENCOs
Other professionals involved in the young person's care
Information will be shared:
With consent, or
Where safeguarding concerns require it

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8. Professional Practice
The Listening Path:
Works within recognised counselling ethical frameworks
Receives regular supervision
Maintains up-to-date safeguarding knowledge
Works within scope of competence

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9. Emergency Situations
If there is immediate risk:
Emergency services (999) will be contacted
Appropriate safeguarding services will be informed

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10. Policy Review
This policy is reviewed regularly and remains aligned with Best Foot Forward safeguarding procedures and current legislation.

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