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Safeguarding Policy for working with adults

- I am a speech and language therapist working privately with adults with developmental language disorder (DLD) or language disorder associated with another condition.
- I do not employ paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers or agency staff or students and therefore this policy applies only to myself.



What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is **protecting people from abuse and neglect**.

Everyone should be able to live their life feeling:

- Safe
- Respected and treated well by people
- Listened to
- Able to say no to things they don't want to do



What is abuse?

Abuse is when someone does or says things **harms you** – mentally or physically.

Abuse can be:

- **Physical** – when someone hurts you physically
- **Sexual**- when someone touches you or has sexual contact with you in a way you don't want

- **Financial** – when someone takes your money or possessions or tries to control your money
- **Psychological** - where someone is unkind, threatening, calls you names
- **Cyber-bullying**- when someone threatens or upsets you on social media, emails or messaging services
- **Neglect** – when someone does not you the care and support you need.

Abuse can happen **once or many times**.

Abuse can happen **anywhere** – at home, at work, in public



Who can be abused?

Anyone can be abused.



People with communication difficulties are vulnerable to abuse because:

- They **may not recognise** that they are being abused
- They **may not realise** they have been abused
- It may be more **difficult** for them to **describe and report** abuse
- They may be **dependent** on people who abuse them
- Abusers may **target** them because they are more vulnerable



Who can abuse you?

Anyone can abuse someone. It could be:

- Family or friends
- Strangers
- Colleagues

- Staff or other professionals
- Volunteers
- Carers

Some specific types of abuse are:



Domestic abuse – when your partner or a close family member abuses you



Modern slavery – when a person threatens or abuses you to make you work for no or very little money



Discrimination abuse – when a person bullies or hurts you because of:

- A disability or condition
- The colour of your skin
- Where you come from
- Your age
- Your religion
- Your sexual preference – if you are LGBTQIA+



What should you do if you think you are being abused

Tell someone you trust as soon as you can. This could be:

- a member of your family
- a friend
- a professional, like a GP or social worker

Tell them, **even if you are not sure you are being abused.**

You can also contact your local council's adult safeguarding team or co-ordinator
In an emergency contact the police on 999

If you think a crime has been committed **report** this to the **police** too.



How do I support safeguarding in my work?

I am committed to keeping the adults I work with safe by:

- Creating a safe and positive working environment and listening to any concerns expressed by the people I work with and their families.
- Making sure that the well-being of people I work with is respected, taking into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs when I decide on taking action.
- Keeping written records of any information shared with me by people I work with and any actions I take.
- Being checked and registered with the Disclosure and Barring service with an up-to-date advanced check through the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice (ASLTIP).
- Sharing my code for the DBS checking service if you ask for it
- Working with other organisations to help keep people safe
- Attending safeguarding adults training every 2 years to keep my knowledge up-to-date.
- Ensuring this policy is accessible to adults with language and communication difficulties.
- Ensuring this policy is available on my website.
- Reviewing this policy every 2 years.



Mental health concerns

People with DLD/language disorder often experience mental health difficulties.

I am not a mental health professional.

If I am concerned about your mental health I will ask you to contact someone who can help you with this. This might be:

- Your GP

- A medical or social care professional
- A member of your family

If you do not do this **I will contact your GP to report my concerns**

I will do this because it is part of **my responsibility to help keep you safe.**



Confidentiality and my safeguarding responsibilities

- My speech and language therapy assessment, sessions with you are **confidential**.
- I may sometimes think someone I am working with is being harmed or at risk of being harmed. I may also think you are harming someone else or putting them at risk of being harmed.
- **If I am concerned for your safety or the safety of someone you know** I will report this to **the local adult safeguarding team** in **your** local area. I will always inform you if I am going to do this.
- If I worried that someone is in immediate danger or is injured I will contact the local police.



Concerns about me

- I am a member of the HCPC (Health & Care Professions Council) – registration no:
- **If you are concerned that I am abusing or not acting professionally towards you** then **please speak to me about this first** so that we can try to sort this out together.
- If you do **not want to speak to me** then you can **contact the HCPC** to report this and get support with making a complaint.

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/concerns/raising-concerns/public/StepTwo>.

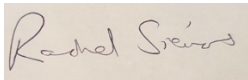
Other supporting information about me

- I am registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), the professional body that regulates the standards of proficiency for Speech and Language Therapists
Registration no. SL04481
- I am a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
Membership no. RC0014759

- I am a member of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practise (ASLTIP)
Membership no. 713
- I have an Enhanced DBS check
DBS update service no. Update Service ID C0192758037
- I have public liability insurance from the RCSLT; the certificate can be provided upon request
- I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a Data Controller
Registration no. 00013727353

This policy was last reviewed on: 3.4.26

Signed:



Contact details: sievers@brightonspeechtherapist.co.uk

Organisations you can contact for support

Mental health and crisis support

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Support for people with learning and communication difficulties who have experienced abuse

<https://respond.org.uk/>

Report hate or discrimination crime

<https://www.stophateuk.org/report-hate-crime/>

Support for women who have experienced domestic abuse

<https://womensaid.org.uk/>

Support for men who have experienced domestic abuse

<https://mensadvice.org.uk/>

Support for people who are LGBT+ and have experience domestic abuse

<https://www.galop.org.uk/helpline>

Report modern slavery

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/modern-slavery>