**Safeguarding Children Protection Policy**

MV Family Centre:

1. Believes that children and young people need safe environments in which they can develop and grow in confidence.

2. Believes that children and young people should not be exposed to abuse or negligence or avoidable risks of any kind.

3. Recognises that organisations working with and supporting children and young people have a duty to keep them safe.

4. Places Safeguarding and Protection of children and young people at the centre of its activities.

5. Is committed to and working towards meeting the objectives contained within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, The Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

6. Recognises that Safeguarding and Child Protection are emotive issues that need to be handled both sensitively and carefully.

7. Is committed to creating and implementing policies and procedures that will ensure where risks need to be taken regarding children and young people that they are both calculated and carefully managed by a written risk assessment– with particular regard to contact moving away from the centre.

8. Recognises the difference between Child Protection and Safeguarding namely:

Child Protection involves recognising signs of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect and acting upon it by referring to the Centre Coordinator and if needed to Social Care or the police. Safeguarding involves keeping children and young people safe from a much wider range of potential harm and looks at preventative action and not just reaction.

9. Is committed to ensuring that all its volunteers, staff and trustees know about and operate in accordance with the following procedure when a Safeguarding or Child Protection issue arises namely:

10. Recognise – by being aware of possible signs – Safeguarding standards are set out in the document from NSPCC - https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1079/safeguarding-standards-and-guidance.pdf

· Respond – by acting on what has been seen, heard, suspected

11.Record – asap – by the end of that day and if applicable using the words spoken by a child or adult or relayed by a third party

12. Report - to safeguarding lead (Currently the Coordinator Joanna Machakera)

· Refer – to Social Care or the police if appropriate.

13. Is committed to ensuring that all its volunteers, staff and trustees are aware of, kept up to date with and operate in accordance with good practice in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection.

14. Recognises that safeguarding is the responsibility of every individual in the organisation.

Recruitment – (see also our full Safer recruitment Policy)

15.MV Family Centre will have a clearly defined recruitment process for its staff, volunteers and trustees. This will include application forms, checking ID, interviews, checking references, induction procedures and probationary periods. At present the Centre Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring these processes are followed in the case of employed staff.

16. MV Family Centre’s commitment to Safeguarding and Child Protection will also extend to the following:

Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS)

All of its staff members will be checked to an enhanced level with barred list

check when they first join the organisation and every three years thereafter.

All of its volunteers, staff and trustees will be aware of and kept up to date with good practice and procedural changes in relation to DBS checks.

17. MV Family Centre will modify its own recruitment practices and procedures to take account of directives issued by the DBS.

Managing Safeguarding and Child Protection

18. . MV Family Centre will have a named member of staff who will

be responsible and accountable for all aspects of the organisation’s work in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection. Generally the centre coordinator.

19. This person will be responsible for:

20. Ensuring the centre is aware of and operating in accordance with their Local Safeguarding Board’s policies and procedures in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection.

21. Ensuring that staff have access to the phone numbers they need to report allegations or concerns relating to Safeguarding or Child Protection to Children’s Services and or the police.

22. Ensuring that either themselves or another named volunteer or member of staff passes accurate information relating to Safeguarding or Child Protection to the coordinator who will then pass it to the statutory agency responsible for investigating it both directly and quickly.

23. Establishing timely contact and seeking advice from NACCC if they have any concerns about Safeguarding, Child Protection or Inappropriate Referrals to their centre.

24. Reporting any significant safeguarding incident to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Awareness Training for Mv Family Centre staff.

25. This is mandatory for coordinators, other key staff and volunteers and trustees and will be repeated every year or revised as required. It will always form part of the induction.

Sharing Information

26. MV Family Centre has a statutory obligation to pass information to relevant

partner organisations when a Safeguarding or Child Protection issue has arisen within the centre or elsewhere.

27. MV Family Centre has a recognised procedure for staff to follow when a Safeguarding or Child Protection issue has arisen within the centre or elsewhere. Template for recording a concern attached.

28. MV Family Centre will make families using the service and referrers aware of their statutory obligation to record and report any incidents relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection.

**Providing Advice and Support**

29. MV Family Centre will ensure that its staff receive the supervision and

support they require when they are working with Safeguarding and Child Protection incidents or concerns.

30. Failing to follow or non -compliance with recognised procedures and good practice in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection by MV Family Centre’s staff.

When it involves MV Family Centre’s staff the organisation will take necessary action.

31. This could include some or all of the following depending on the severity of the non-compliance and after discussion at a meeting:

• a reminder warning to the individual in conversation,

• a formal written warning from the coordinator.

• a second written warning from the coordinator.

• suspension

• dismissal.

32. If it involves the coordinator the designated person will probably need to be informed under a Serious Incident Report.

33. MV Family Centre also understands that if the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) becomes aware of any failings or non-compliance with recognised procedures and good practice in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection it will act in one or a combination of the following ways, as appropriate and reasonable:

· Enhanced support and training for the Centre

· Agreement for further action by the Centre

· Temporary suspension from membership of NACCC

· Removal of NACCC accreditation status

· Notification of partner organisations that are making referrals to and or funding the centre.

34. Distribution of MV Family Centre’s Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection

A current copy of this policy will be included in the guidance notes given to volunteers, staff and trustees. Copies of the policy will also be available to referrers, families using the centre and other organisations upon request.

35. Revision of MV Child Contact Centre’s Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

This will take place as and when required but at least bi-annually. Additional changes are to take account of new legislation and practice guidance.

36. Review of MV Family Centre Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection

This will take place annually.

Additional changes to take account of new legislation and practice directions will also be made as and when required. Copies of the revised policy will be made available to MV Family Centre staff and any partner organisations.

37. Statement of Commitment to MV Family Centre Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children Policy

This form must be completed by all of MV Family Centre employees.

Name:

I have read and understood the standards and guidelines outlined in MV Family Centre Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children Policy. I agree with the principles contained therein and accept the importance of implementing them in my capacity as an employee or volunteer of MV Family Centre

Print Name : ……………………………………………………….

Signature: ……………………………………………………….

Job Title/Role…………………………………………………….

Date: ……………………………………………………………….