College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists

Safeguarding

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COSRT Safeguarding Policy

This document should be considered alongside the COSRT practice guidelines, and these Government publications:

- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/safeguarding-children-and-young-people
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/595194/SD8-Office_of-the-Public-Guardian-safeguarding-policy.pdf

The following COSRT policies are also relevant:

- Health & Safety
- Conduct Procedure
- Whistleblowing
- Disciplinary and Grievance
- Safer Recruitment
- Equality and Diversity

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a term, which is broader than 'child protection', and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and adults at risk and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

COSRT is committed to the need for an organisation policy which is consistent in its approach to safeguarding in the best interests of clients, practitioners, staff, volunteers and anyone who encounters the charity through its work.

This policy has been drawn up to promote good practice, to ensure that allegations of abuse or suspicions are deal with appropriately, that the person experiencing abuse is supported and that the abuse is prevented from re-occurring.

This policy sets out what is expected from all COSRT Members, staff and COSRT in all matters relating to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. It also provides the context for safeguarding and confidentiality guidance already available elsewhere in the organisation.

Safeguarding encompasses:

- Preventing harm and abuse by demonstrating high standards of professional care
- Responding effectively to allegations of harm and abuse
- Working closely with other relevant agencies and their procedures
- Providing the mechanisms for safe and responsible lone working
- Reflecting on practice and using learning to improve care for clients, staff and volunteers.

What is expected of COSRT Members

- All COSRT Members are expected to be able to demonstrate that they are aware of the relevant statutory framework, which sets out safeguarding principles for their client group(s) – and be confident that they can act in accordance with these principles.
- COSRT requires Members, whether working in public and/or private settings, to take responsibility for finding out, and working to the safeguarding principles and policies of the organisation.
- All Members have a responsibility to make sure that their knowledge is up to date, based on the relevant standards and statutory frameworks, on all matters relating to safeguarding. Annual updating of safeguarding training is mandatory.
- All Members are required to have a policy and procedure in place for dealing with allegations and incidents and reporting to the relevant authorities [and to COSRT].
- Service users and the public should be confident that COSRT, its Members and accredited training organisations meet the appropriate professional standards and will always endeavour to provide a safe, knowledgeable and accountable service.

What is expected of COSRT Staff

- Staff at COSRT should undertake regular training as required.
- Staff at COSRT should be able to signpost enquiries about safeguarding from members, training organisations and members of the public to the relevant individuals or bodies.

- Staff should be able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and be aware of the proper procedure for notifying any concerns within the organisation.

What is expected of COSRT

- COSRT will update all staff on any changes to law relating to safeguarding, as and when necessary, and provide regular training.
- COSRT will undertake to update information on safeguarding and the statutory requirements for its members and their clients as appropriate, in line with current legislation, through COSRT's website and other communications.
- COSRT will keep all relevant policies and procedures up to date.
- COSRT will vet all staff and volunteers according to good practice.
- COSRT will provide access to a complaints and whistleblowing procedure.
- COSRT will ensure that there is a procedure in place for dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers.
- COSRT will provide access to a complaints and whistleblowing procedure.
- COSRT will report any serious incidents to the relevant authorities and Charity Commission.
- COSRT will include safeguarding on its risk register.

COSRT safeguarding lead

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