

(RCT) EYE TO EYE YOUTH COUNSELLING SERVICE

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008

RCT Safeguarding Procedures

Eye to Eye staff are aware that *Safeguarding is Everyone's Business*

Eye to Eye staff are aware that Safeguarding is Everyone's Business. The independent status of Eye to Eye youth counselling service allows us to offer young people the confidentiality that is essential for both the credibility of the agency and the effectiveness of the work we carry out with young people.

It is our policy that disclosures made by any young person will be taken seriously and that any information given can remain within the organisation and does not have to be reported to any other service. This exception will only apply if the young person is no longer at risk of significant harm and wishes to explore all options available to them.

All young people who use this counselling service will be informed that unforeseen circumstances may arise that give the counsellor good grounds for breaching confidentiality, i.e. following the principle of the "*best interest of the child.*"

In such cases, every effort should be made to allow the client to address the problem and wherever possible, consent for the disclosure sought from that young person. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 12, states that: 'Whenever adults make a decision that will affect you in any way, you have the right to give your opinion, and the adults have to take that seriously'.

It is the responsibility of the counsellor to ensure that the young person understands why confidentiality must be broken, who is going to be informed and the content of the information that is being disclosed.

Young people must form a large part of this process; they must be kept up to date and informed about all decisions being made and all actions taken.

No member of staff will be expected to make the decision on breaking confidentiality alone.

The decision must be in consultation with the co-ordinator and, if school based, this must include the designated member of staff or Head Teacher. This will be in line with:

- The Cwm Taf Children's Safeguarding Board
- The All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008
- The Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004
- School's Child Protection Procedure (if school based)
- LSCB local Protocols MENTIONED IN LSCB POLICY
- Data Protection Act (1998)

A copy of this "Statement of Confidentiality" should be displayed at Eye to Eye counselling premises.