



LOWESTOFT & WAVENEY  
BREASTFEEDING  
SUPPORT

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## Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support safeguarding children policy March 2022

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### 1. Purpose

#### **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children**

Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support (LWBS) is a registered charity offering services including breastfeeding support cafes, breast pump hire and home visits in Norfolk and Suffolk. Support is provided by trained Peer Supporters, Breastfeeding Counsellors and International Board Certified Lactation Consultants.

Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support recognises that, under the Children Act 1989 and 2004, it has a duty and responsibility for making arrangements to ensure all its functions are discharged having regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people in their care – this includes all services directly provided and commissioned by the local authority. A child is anyone up until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children” is defined in Working Together 2015 as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children’s health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### 2. Persons affected

- All staff, paid and unpaid, this includes volunteers
- All service users
- All visitors and contractors

### 3. Contact details:

Safeguarding Lead: KAYA THORPE Phone/email: 07731400020  
[lowestoftandwaveney@hotmail.com](mailto:lowestoftandwaveney@hotmail.com)

Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Norfolk: LOUISE WHITE Phone/email: 07532707455  
[lowestoftandwaveney@hotmail.com](mailto:lowestoftandwaveney@hotmail.com)

Deputy Safeguarding Lead for Suffolk: SAMANTHA SALE Phone/email: 07398224884  
[lowestoftandwaveney@hotmail.com](mailto:lowestoftandwaveney@hotmail.com)



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### 4. Safeguarding policy

Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support is committed to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It has:

- a clear line of accountability for the commissioning and/or provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support safeguarding arrangements;
- a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services;
- clear whistleblowing procedures and are suitably referenced in staff training and codes of conduct, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed;
- arrangements which set out clearly the processes for sharing information procedures with other professionals and with the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership;
- a designated professional lead for safeguarding at Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support. Their role is to support other professionals in their agencies to recognise the needs of children, including rescue from possible abuse or neglect. Designated professional roles should always be explicitly defined in job descriptions. Safeguarding leads should be given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively;
- safe recruitment practices for individuals whom Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support will permit to work regularly with children, including policies on when to obtain a DBS check;
- appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training:
- ensuring that staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role;
- staff are given a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with safeguarding responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a child's safety or welfare;
- all staff should have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time in their work with children, young people and families.
- ensure that staff and those who services users who book a home visit or attend a breastfeeding support cafe are able to access LWBS safeguarding policies and procedures via the LWBS website or a printed copy kept in the café bag



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- LWBS breastfeeding cafés are staffed by Association of Breastfeeding Mothers (ABM) trained Peer Supporters and Breastfeeding Counsellors. ABM has confirmed that as LWBS is an independent charity, LWBS volunteers are required to follow the LWBS safeguarding policy. A report will be written by the LWBS Safeguarding Lead or Deputies, subsequently the Safeguarding Lead will provide ABM with an emailed copy
- The appropriate safeguarding policy must be followed and in certain circumstances the midwifery service or health visitors can be contacted to flag concerns:
  - o Midwifery services may be contacted during the antenatal period or if an infant is still under their care (up to 28 days old). An email may be sent to either the designated continuity of care team or the Eden Team
  - o Health Visiting Services will be contacted by the Safeguarding Lead to explain the concern and follow any instructions given. Norfolk Health Visiting Service: 0300 3000 123 Suffolk Health Visiting Service: 0345 6078 866
- clear policies in line with those from Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership for dealing with allegations against people who work with children. Such policies should make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:
  - o behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
  - o possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
  - o behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

### **Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support will ensure that staff understand;**

- What they need to do, and what they can expect of one another, to safeguard children.
- Core legal requirements, making it clear what individuals and Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support should do to keep children safe. In doing so, Lowestoft and Waveney Breastfeeding Support seeks to emphasise that effective safeguarding systems are those where:
  - The child's needs are paramount, and the needs and wishes of each child, be they a baby or infant, or an older child, should be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates;
  - That all staff who come into contact with children and families are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;
  - The requirement to share appropriate information in a timely way and can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues and local authority children's social care;



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- The necessity to use their expert judgement to put the child's needs at the heart of the safeguarding system so that the right solution can be found for each individual child;
- The necessity to contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote a child's welfare and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans and outcomes;
- To be aware of the increased risk of domestic abuse in pregnancy and the perinatal period

### **Key principles will be communicated that:**

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- A child-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children
- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children and adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse. We are committed to equality and anti-discriminatory practice
- The additional needs that some children may experience (for example due to being from minority ethnic groups, having disabilities) can present additional barriers including access issues, communication and discrimination

## 5. Revision history

This policy and related guidance will be monitored by the Trustees on a regular basis for compliance and will be reviewed at least annually.

Date approved or amended	Amendments	Signed
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