**Child Protection Policy**

AIMS OF THE POLICY:

SEN Venture acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and SEN Venture requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and young people are protected from abuse and have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child centred environment.

SEN Venture acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. .

PROCEDURES:

***SEN Venture Saturday Club and Play-Scheme will seek to keep children and young people safe by:***

* Promoting and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
* Ensuring staff understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
* Ensuring safer working guidelines and practices so that staff have a clear understanding of how areas of support are managed, to help keep staff, children and young people safe
* Ensuring appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
* Ensuring that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
* Preventing the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
* Ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
* Designated Safeguarding Leads to work in partnership with the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Partners to ensure the effective protection of children and young people, as set out in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018’

CONFIDENTIALITY:

SEN Venture has a duty to share information regarding any concerns we have about a child or young person; but only with relevant people, organisations and agencies. Where concerns have been raised we have the duty to pass on information to the relevant people as this is critical to keeping a child or young person safe. The’ Data Protection Act 2018’ and the’ General Protection Regulations’ permits SEN Venture to store and share information for safeguarding and child protection purposes; and this information should be treated as ‘special care data’. This includes sharing information regarding children and young people ‘at risk’, without consent if it is not possible or reasonable to gain consent. In the event of an allegation being made; the concern must be reported to; Dee Johnson (CEO and Lead DSP).

***Confidentiality will be maintained at all times***

MONITORING:

This policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in SEN Venture. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation. The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or due to changes in legislation and/or government guidance.

***Providers must have regard to the Government's statutory guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’. If providers have concerns about children's safety or welfare, they must notify agencies with statutory responsibilities without delay. This means the local children's social care services and, in emergencies, the police.***

***Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection contact details:***

Nominated Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Dee Johnson

Phone: 07947627599

***Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership helpline: 03001234043***