

# Supporting adults who have experienced Child Sexual Abuse

## *Policy Statement*

Public awareness of child sexual abuse and its impact on the day-to-day lives of many victims/survivors has increased over recent years. As with other life traumas or challenges – such as domestic violence, bereavement, or relationship breakdown – it is important that employers and service providers are supportive.

### **This organisation commits to:**

- Recognising that people employed by us or using our services might have experienced child sexual abuse that may have a significant impact on their everyday lives.
- Promoting knowledge of the impact of child sexual abuse throughout our workforce.
- Listening with empathy and compassion to people who choose to speak about their abuse, and treating them with respect.
- Supporting those who talk about their abuse and those who listen to accounts of abuse.

**This organisation acknowledges** that survivors of child sexual abuse may have vulnerabilities as a consequence of that abuse, but also qualities and strengths which they have developed to help them live their lives.

**This organisation recognises** that it is essential for those who have experienced child sexual abuse to feel safe at work or when using services. Responding to them as an individual with unique experiences will help, as will being mindful of any links to the Equality Act 2010\*.

\*Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics comprise age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Commitment adopted by (insert organisation name) on (insert date) at the meeting of (insert meeting name) e.g. Commitment adopted by Women's Counselling and Therapy Service on 14th November 2018 at the meeting of the Board of Trustees