

# Huddle & Bliss Safeguarding Policy

## 1. Policy Statement

Huddle & Bliss is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of babies, children, parents and vulnerable adults. All services are delivered with safety, dignity, respect and professional integrity as the highest priority. This policy applies to all Huddle & Bliss services including studio classes, clinic-based services, home visits and work delivered within Residential Family Assessment Units (FAUs) or other partner organisations.

## 2. Legal and Professional Framework

This policy is informed by relevant UK safeguarding legislation and guidance including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), and the Care Act 2014. Huddle & Bliss operates as a non-clinical wellbeing service but recognises its duty of care to act appropriately if safeguarding concerns arise.

## 3. Scope of Practice

Huddle & Bliss provides wellbeing services including infant massage, developmental movement, parental education, relaxation sessions and specialist consultations. These services may take place in private studio settings, clinical environments, family homes and Residential Family Assessment Units.

## 4. Safeguarding Principles

The welfare of the child is paramount. Concerns should be recognised and shared early. Professional curiosity should be maintained. Clear professional boundaries must be upheld. Concerns must be reported appropriately.

## 5. Recognising Safeguarding Concerns

Concerns may include neglect, unsafe environments, unexplained injuries, concerning parent-child interaction, domestic abuse indicators, substance misuse concerns or significant mental health concerns affecting parenting. Huddle & Bliss does not investigate concerns but records and reports observations appropriately.

## 6. Responding to Concerns

If a safeguarding concern arises: Remain calm and professional. Do not investigate or question extensively. Do not promise confidentiality. Make a clear written factual record including date, time, location and observations. Records should be factual and avoid personal opinion wherever possible.

## 7. Reporting Procedures

Where appropriate, safeguarding concerns may be shared with relevant professionals such as Health Visitors, GPs, Children's Social Care or emergency services where immediate risk is present. When working within Residential Family Assessment Units or partner organisations, the safeguarding procedures of the host organisation will always be followed and concerns reported to staff immediately.

## 8. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Huddle & Bliss respects client confidentiality. However confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm or where a safeguarding duty requires information to be shared.

### **9. Professional Boundaries**

Huddle & Bliss maintains clear professional boundaries. Services provided do not include medical advice, mental health therapy or childcare. Families may be signposted to appropriate professionals where additional support is required.

### **10. Lone Working and Personal Safety**

Where services involve lone working such as home visits, session details may be shared with a trusted contact, clear appointment times are maintained and sessions may be terminated if the practitioner feels unsafe.

### **11. Allegations or Complaints**

Any safeguarding allegation or complaint relating to Huddle & Bliss will be taken seriously, documented appropriately and reported to relevant authorities where required.

### **12. Safeguarding Responsibility**

Safeguarding within Huddle & Bliss is the responsibility of the business owner.

**Name:** Sherry Prosser

**Role:** Infant & Maternal Wellbeing Specialist, Huddle & Bliss

Sherry Prosser undertakes regular safeguarding training and follows current UK safeguarding guidance. Huddle & Bliss works alongside relevant professionals and follows the safeguarding procedures of partner organisations when working within external settings such as Residential Family Assessment Units.

### **13. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if legislation, professional guidance or services change.