



**ACTION FOR
NEURODIVERSITY**

COUNSELLING LIVES AFFECTED BY AUTISM AND ASPERGER'S SYNDROME



Safeguarding Statement for Clients

About Action for Neurodiversity

Action for Neurodiversity is a registered charity providing autism-specialist counselling and emotional support. Registered Charity Number: 1148790

Our commitment to your safety

Action for Neurodiversity (AfN) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for everyone who uses our services. Safeguarding means protecting children, young people, and adults from harm while respecting their dignity, autonomy, and voice.

This statement explains what safeguarding means for you as a client and what you can expect from us.

Who this applies to

This safeguarding statement applies to all services provided by Action for Neurodiversity, including counselling and emotional support for neurodivergent children, young people, adults, couples, and families.

It applies to everyone working with or on behalf of AfN, including counsellors, emotional support workers, students, volunteers, and trustees.

What safeguarding means at Action for Neurodiversity

We aim to:

- Promote your wellbeing, safety, and rights.
- Prevent harm wherever possible.
- Respond appropriately and promptly to concerns.
- Work in line with UK safeguarding law and national guidance.

Safeguarding is part of everything we do.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

AfN has a Designated Safeguarding Lead who oversees safeguarding concerns and ensures appropriate action is taken.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Elaine Nicholson

☎ (01536) 266681

✉ safeguarding@actionforneurodiversity.org

If someone is in immediate danger, please call **999**.

Confidentiality and safeguarding

We respect your privacy and will keep information confidential wherever possible. However, if we believe that you or someone else may be at serious risk of harm, we may need to share relevant information with appropriate services (such as social care or the police) to help keep people safe.

Wherever possible, we will:

- Explain why information needs to be shared.
- Involve you in decisions.
- Share only what is necessary.

If you share a concern or disclosure with us

If you tell us something that raises a safeguarding concern, you can expect us to:

- Listen calmly and respectfully.
- Take you seriously.
- Avoid judgement or blame.
- Explain what happens next in clear language.
- Offer appropriate support.

We will not ask you to investigate or prove anything. Our role is to help keep people safe.

Types of harm we are alert to

Safeguarding concerns may include (but are not limited to):

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
- Neglect or self-neglect.
- Domestic abuse.
- Discriminatory abuse.
- Financial or material abuse.
- Online abuse or exploitation.
- Criminal exploitation, including county lines.
- Radicalisation or extremism.

Abuse can happen to anyone. It is never the fault of the person experiencing it.

What happens if a concern needs to be acted on

If we believe that action is needed to help keep someone safe, we may:

- Seek advice from safeguarding professionals.
- Make a referral to children's or adult social care.
- Contact emergency services if there is immediate danger.

We aim to act promptly, sensitively, and in line with safeguarding law.

Concerns about someone working with AfN

Any concerns about the behaviour or conduct of someone working with Action for Neurodiversity will be taken seriously and managed in line with safeguarding law and local safeguarding procedures.

Support

We recognise that safeguarding concerns can be distressing. Support is available for:

- People affected by abuse or harm.

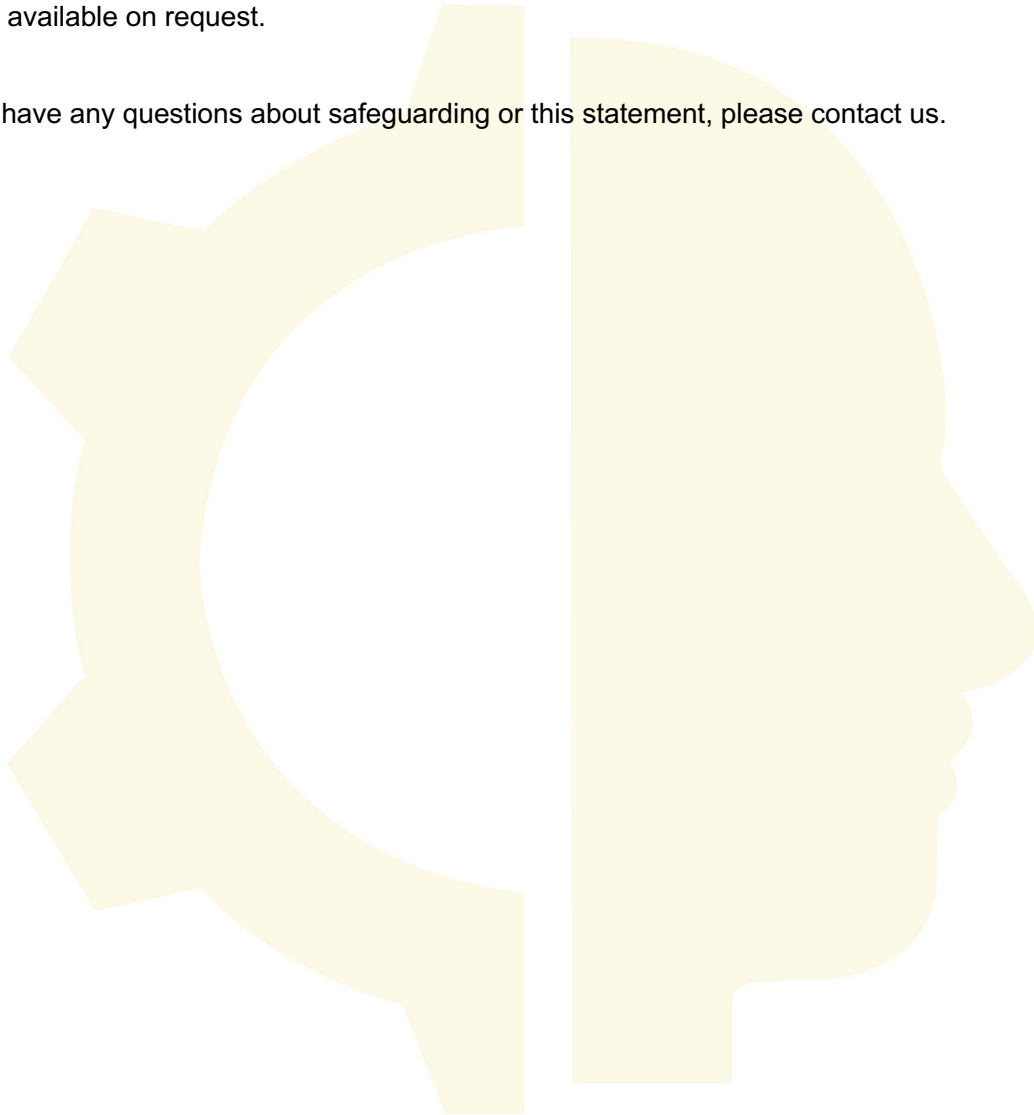
- Clients with additional or complex needs.

We will aim to respond with care, compassion, and respect.

Further information

This safeguarding statement is based on our full Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually and is available on request.

If you have any questions about safeguarding or this statement, please contact us.



The majority of our counsellors are individual members of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. We are committed to the principles and values set out in the Ethical Framework of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy.