



Data Protection Act 2018 Policy

Introduction

This Policy sets out the obligations of PartnershipProjects UK Ltd, ("the Company"), regarding data protection and the rights of customers and business contacts ("data subjects") in respect of their personal data under Data Protection Act 2018 (Formerly EU Regulation 2016/679 General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR")).

The Data Protection Act 2018 defines "personal data" as any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (a "data subject"); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier, or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural, or social identity of that natural person.

This Policy sets the Company's obligations regarding the collection, processing, transfer, storage, and disposal of personal data. The procedures and principles set out herein must be followed at all times by the Company, its employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company.

The Company is committed not only to the letter of the law, but also to the spirit of the law and places high importance on the correct, lawful, and fair handling of all personal data, respecting the legal rights, privacy, and trust of all individuals with whom it deals.

The Data Protection Principles

This Policy aims to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The Data Protection Act 2018 sets out the following principles with which any party handling personal data must comply. All personal data must be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.
- Collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes. Further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes.
- Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed.
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. Every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that is inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which it is processed, is erased, or rectified without delay.

- Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data is processed. Personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes, or statistical purposes, subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the Data Protection Act 2018 in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject.
- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

The Rights of Data Subjects

- The Data Protection Act 2018 sets out the following rights applicable to data subjects
- The right to be informed'
- The right of access,
- The right to rectification,
- The right to erasure (also known as the 'right to be forgotten'),
- The right to restrict processing,
- The right to data portability,
- The right to object; and
- Rights with respect to automated decision-making and profiling.

Lawful, Fair, and Transparent Data Processing

The Data Protection Act 2018 seeks to ensure that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly, and transparently, without adversely affecting the rights of the data subject. The Data Protection Act 2018 states that processing of personal data shall be lawful if at least one of the following applies:

- The data subject has given consent to the processing of their personal data for one or more specific purposes;
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party, or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract with them;
- The processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the data controller is subject;
- The processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person;
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller; or
- The processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the data controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child.

- If the personal data in question is “special category data” (also known as “sensitive personal data”) (for example, data concerning the data subject’s health), at least one of the following conditions must be met:
- The data subject has given their explicit consent to the processing of such data for one or more specified purposes (unless EU or EU Member State law prohibits them from doing so);
- The processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or of another natural person where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent;
- The processing relates to personal data which is clearly made public by the data subject;
- The processing is necessary for the conduct of legal claims or whenever courts are acting in their judicial capacity;

Specified, Explicit, and Legitimate Purposes

The Company collects and processes the personal data set out in this Policy.

This includes:

- Personal data collected directly from data subjects **OR**
- Personal data obtained from third parties.
- The Company only collects, processes, and holds personal data for the specific purposes set out in this Policy (or for other purposes expressly permitted by the Data Protection Act 2018).
- Data subjects are kept informed at all times of the purpose or purposes for which the Company uses their personal data.

Adequate, Relevant, and Limited Data Processing

The Company will only collect and process personal data for and to the extent necessary for the specific purpose or purposes of which data subjects have been informed (or will be informed).

Accuracy of Data and Keeping Data Up-to-Date

- The Company shall ensure that all personal data collected, processed, and held by it is kept accurate and up-to-date. This includes, but is not limited to, the rectification of personal data at the request of a data subject.
- The accuracy of personal data shall be checked when it is collected and at regular intervals thereafter. If any personal data is found to be inaccurate or out-of-date, all reasonable steps will be taken without delay to amend or erase that data, as appropriate.

Data Retention

- The Company shall not keep personal data for any longer than is necessary in light of the purpose or purposes for which that personal data was originally collected, held, and processed.
- When personal data is no longer required, all reasonable steps will be taken to erase or otherwise dispose of it without delay.

- For full details of the Company's approach to data retention, including retention periods for specific personal data types held by the Company, please refer to our Data Retention Policy.

Secure Processing

The Company shall ensure that all personal data collected, held, and processed is kept secure and protected against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage. Further details of the technical and organisational measures which shall be taken are provided later in this Policy.

Accountability and Record-Keeping

The Company's Data Protection Officer is Gabrielle Stirling,
E-Mail: gabrielle@partnershipprojectsuk.com, Tel: +44 (0) 330 808 0644

The Data Protection Officer shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Policy and for monitoring compliance with this Policy, the Company's other data protection-related policies, and with the Data Protection Act 2018 and other applicable data protection legislation.

- The Company shall keep written internal records of all personal data collection, holding, and processing, which shall incorporate the following information:
- The name and details of the Company, its Data Protection Officer, and any applicable third-party data processors;
- The purposes for which the Company collects, holds, and processes personal data;
- Details of the categories of personal data collected, held, and processed by the Company, and the categories of data subject to which that personal data relates;
- Details of any transfers of personal data to non-EEA countries including all mechanisms and security safeguards;
- Details of how long personal data will be retained by the Company; and
- Detailed descriptions of all technical and organisational measures taken by the Company to ensure the security of personal data.

Data Protection Impact Assessments

- The Company shall carry out Data Protection Impact Assessments for any and all new projects and/or new uses of personal data.
- Data Protection Impact Assessments shall be overseen by the Data Protection Officer and shall address the following:
 1. The type(s) of personal data that will be collected, held, and processed;
 2. The purpose(s) for which personal data is to be used;
 3. The Company's objectives;
 4. How personal data is to be used;
 5. The parties (internal and/or external) who are to be consulted;
 6. The necessity and proportionality of the data processing with respect to the
 7. purpose(s) for which it is being processed;
 8. Risks posed to data subjects;

9. Risks posed both within and to the Company; and
10. Proposed measures to minimize and handle identified risks.

Keeping Data Subjects Informed

The Company shall provide the information set out in section (i) below to every data subject:

Where personal data is collected directly from data subjects, those data subjects will be informed of its purpose at the time of collection; and where personal data is obtained from a third party, the relevant data subjects will be informed of its purpose:

- a) if the personal data is used to communicate with the data subject, when the first communication is made; or
- b) if the personal data is to be transferred to another party, before that transfer is made; or
- c) as soon as reasonably possible and in any event not more than one month after the personal data is obtained.

(i) The following information shall be provided:

- Details of the Company including, but not limited to, the identity of its Data Protection Officer;
- The purpose(s) for which the personal data is being collected and will be processed (as detailed in this Policy) and the legal basis justifying that collection and processing;
- Where applicable, the legitimate interests upon which the Company is justifying its collection and processing of the personal data;
- Where the personal data is not obtained directly from the data subject, the categories of personal data collected and processed;
- Where the personal data is to be transferred to one or more third parties, details of those parties;
- Where the personal data is to be transferred to a third party that is located outside of the European Economic Area (the “EEA”), details of that transfer, including but not limited to the safeguards in place,
 - Details of data retention;
 - Details of the data subject’s rights under the Data Protection Act 2018;
 - Details of the data subject’s right to withdraw their consent to the Company’s processing of their personal data at any time;
 - Details of the data subject’s right to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (the “supervisory authority” under the Data Protection Act 2018);
 - Where applicable, details of any legal or contractual requirement or obligation necessitating the collection and processing of the personal data and details of any consequences of failing to provide it; and
 - Details of any automated decision-making or profiling that will take place using the personal data, including information on how decisions will be made, the significance of those decisions, and any consequences.

Data Subject Access

- Data subjects may make subject access requests (“SARs”) at any time to find out more about the personal data which the Company holds about them, what it is doing with that personal data, and why.
- Data subjects wishing to make a SAR may do so in writing, using the Company’s Subject Access Request Form, or other written communication. SARs should be addressed to the Company’s Data Protection Officer at PartnershipProjects UK Ltd, Lytchett House, 13 Freeland Park, Wareham Road, Poole, Dorset, England, BH16 6FA
Tel: +44 (0) 330 808 0644
Email: gabrielle@partnershipprojectsuk.com
- Responses to SARs shall normally be made within one month of receipt, however this may be extended by up to two months if the SAR is complex and/or numerous requests are made. If such additional time is required, the data subject shall be informed.
- All SARs received shall be handled by the Company’s Data Protection Officer.
- The Company does not charge a fee for the handling of normal SARs. The Company reserves the right to charge reasonable fees for additional copies of information that has already been supplied to a data subject, and for requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive, particularly where such requests are repetitive.

Rectification of Personal Data

- Data subjects have the right to require the Company to rectify any of their personal data that is inaccurate or incomplete.
- The Company shall rectify the personal data in question, and inform the data subject of that rectification, within one month of the data subject informing the Company of the issue. The period can be extended by up to two months in the case of complex requests. If such additional time is required, the data subject shall be informed.
- In the event that any affected personal data has been disclosed to third parties, those parties shall be informed of any rectification that must be made to that personal data.

Erasures of Personal Data

Data subjects have the right to request that the Company erases the personal data it holds about them in the following circumstances:

- a) It is no longer necessary for the Company to hold that personal data with respect to the purpose(s) for which it was originally collected or processed;
- b) The data subject wishes to withdraw their consent to the Company holding and processing their personal data;
- c) The data subject objects to the Company holding and processing their personal data (and there is no overriding legitimate interest to allow the Company to continue doing so),
- d) The personal data has been processed unlawfully;
- e) The personal data needs to be erased in order for the Company to comply with a particular legal obligation.

Unless the Company has reasonable grounds to refuse to erase personal data, all requests for erasure shall be complied with, and the data subject informed of the erasure, within one month of receipt of the data subject's request. The period can be extended by up to two months in the case of complex requests. If such additional time is required, the data subject shall be informed.

In the event that any personal data that is to be erased in response to a data subject's request has been disclosed to third parties, those parties shall be informed of the erasure (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort to do so).

Restriction of Personal Data Processing

Data subjects may request that the Company ceases processing the personal data it holds about them. If a data subject makes such a request, the Company shall retain only the amount of personal data concerning that data subject (if any) that is necessary to ensure that the personal data in question is not processed further. In the event that any affected personal data has been disclosed to third parties, those parties shall be informed of the applicable restrictions on processing it (unless it is impossible or would require disproportionate effort to do so).

Objections to Personal Data Processing

Data subjects have the right to object to the Company processing their personal data based on legitimate interests, direct marketing (including profiling) and processing for scientific and/or historical research and statistics purposes.

Where a data subject objects to the Company processing their personal data based on its legitimate interests, the Company shall cease such processing immediately, unless it can be demonstrated that the Company's legitimate grounds for such processing override the data subject's interests, rights, and freedoms, or that the processing is necessary for the conduct of legal claims.

Where a data subject objects to the Company processing their personal data for direct marketing purposes, the Company shall cease such processing immediately.

Where a data subject objects to the Company processing their personal data for scientific and/or historical research and statistics purposes, the data subject must, under the Data Protection Act 2018, "demonstrate grounds relating to his or her particular situation". The Company is not required to comply if the research is necessary for the performance of a task carried out for reasons of public interest.

Personal Data Collected, Held, and Processed

The following personal data is collected, held, and processed by the Company: Contact information, such as Name, Phone Number, E-mail address as well as qualifications.

Data Security - Transferring Personal Data and Communications

The Company shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to all communications and other transfers involving personal data:

- All emails containing personal data must be encrypted using Encryption software;
- All emails containing personal data must be marked "confidential";

- Personal data may be transmitted over secure networks only; transmission over unsecured networks is not permitted in any circumstances;
- Personal data may not be transmitted over a wireless network if there is a wired alternative that is reasonably practicable;
- Personal data contained in the body of an email, whether sent or received, should be copied from the body of that email and stored securely. The email itself should be deleted. All temporary files associated therewith should also be deleted using deletion software;
- Where personal data is to be sent by facsimile transmission the recipient should be informed in advance of the transmission and should be waiting by the fax machine to receive the data;
- Where personal data is to be transferred in hardcopy form it should be passed directly to the recipient or sent using Royal Mail Registered or 1st or 2nd Class Signed For post; and
- All personal data to be transferred physically, whether in hardcopy form or on removable electronic media shall be transferred in a suitable container marked “confidential”.

Data Security - Storage

The Company shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to the storage of personal data:

- All electronic copies of personal data should be stored securely using passwords and data encryption;
- All hardcopies of personal data, along with any electronic copies stored on physical, removable media should be stored securely in a locked box, drawer, cabinet, or similar;
- All personal data stored electronically should be backed up at least daily with backups stored onsite. All backups should be encrypted using data encryption’
- No personal data should be stored on any mobile device (including, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, and smartphones), whether such device belongs to the Company or otherwise without the formal written approval of the Data Protection Officer and, in the event of such approval, strictly in accordance with all instructions and limitations described at the time the approval is given, and for no longer than is absolutely necessary; and
- No personal data should be transferred to any device personally belonging to an employee and personal data may only be transferred to devices belonging to agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company where the party in question has agreed to comply fully with the letter and spirit of this Policy and of the Data Protection Act 2018 (which may include demonstrating to the Company that all suitable technical and organisational measures have been taken).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy Statement

(To be incorporated into the Data Protection Policy)

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy sets out how **[Organisation Name]** may use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in a manner that is **lawful, ethical, transparent, and safe**, particularly in relation to the processing of personal data.

This policy applies to all staff, associates, contractors, trainees, and volunteers who work on behalf of the organisation and covers all services delivered **face-to-face, online, or digitally**, including therapeutic services to parents and training delivered to professionals who support parents.

2. Definition of Artificial Intelligence

For the purposes of this policy, Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to software or systems that generate outputs such as text, summaries, insights, or recommendations based on data inputs (e.g. large language models, transcription tools, or content-generation tools).

3. Principles Governing AI Use

The organisation commits to the following principles when considering or using AI:

- **Confidentiality:** Personal and sensitive data must be protected at all times
- **Data minimisation:** Only the minimum necessary data will be processed
- **Transparency:** Service users and professionals will not be misled about the role of AI
- **Human oversight:** AI will never replace professional judgement or clinical decision-making
- **Safeguarding:** AI use will not compromise the safety or wellbeing of parents, children, or families

4. Permitted Uses of AI

AI tools may be used **only where appropriate and approved**, for example:

- Drafting **generic, non-personalised** written materials (e.g. training resources, marketing copy, policy drafts)
- Supporting administrative efficiency (e.g. formatting documents, summarising non-identifiable feedback)

- Assisting staff learning or professional development (e.g. brainstorming ideas, reflective prompts using anonymised examples)

All outputs generated using AI must be **reviewed by a qualified human professional** before use.

5. Prohibited Uses of AI

The organisation **does not permit** the use of AI for:

- Providing therapy, counselling, clinical advice, or psychological assessment
- Making decisions about service users, safeguarding, risk, or eligibility
- Processing, analysing, or uploading **identifiable personal data**, including:
 - Names, contact details, or identifiers
 - Session notes, recordings, or transcripts
 - Case histories or clinical information
- Replacing professional judgement or therapeutic relationships

6. Special Category and Children's Data

The organisation recognises that it routinely works with **special category data** and data relating to children.

No AI system will be used to process:

- Health data
- Mental health or therapeutic information
- Safeguarding information
- Data relating to children or families

unless explicitly approved, risk-assessed, and compliant with GDPR and safeguarding obligations.

7. Lawful Basis and GDPR Compliance

Any permitted AI use must comply with the UK GDPR / GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, including:

- Lawfulness, fairness, and transparency
- Purpose limitation
- Data minimisation
- Accuracy
- Storage limitation
- Integrity and confidentiality

Where required, a **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)** will be undertaken prior to introducing any AI tool.

8. Third-Party AI Tools

Where third-party AI platforms are used:

- Terms of service and data handling practices will be reviewed
- Personal data will not be shared unless contractually protected and compliant
- AI tools will not be used where data may be retained or used to train external models

9. Staff Responsibilities

All staff and associates must:

- Use AI tools only in line with this policy
- Never input identifiable or sensitive information into AI systems
- Seek guidance from the Data Protection Officer or designated lead if unsure
- Report any suspected data breach or inappropriate AI use immediately

Misuse of AI may result in disciplinary action and will be treated as a data protection concern.

10. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed regularly to reflect:

- Developments in AI technology
- Changes in legislation or regulatory guidance
- Best practice in therapeutic, safeguarding, and data protection standards

11. Commitment to Ethical Practice

The organisation is committed to maintaining **trust, safety, and ethical integrity** in all services. AI will only ever be used to support—not replace—human expertise, professional accountability, and compassionate therapeutic practice.

Storage of therapy session notes and recordings

1. Therapy Session Notes (Clinical / Case Notes)

Retention Period

7 years from the end of the therapeutic relationship

This period is appropriate and defensible for UK-based therapeutic services and is consistent with:

- **ICO guidance** on storage limitation and accountability
- **NHS Records Management Code of Practice** (often used as a benchmark)
- **Limitation Act 1980** (civil claims timeframe)
- Professional expectations of:
 - **HCPC** (Standards of conduct, performance and ethics)
 - **BACP** (Ethical Framework – record keeping and accountability)
 - **UKCP** (Ethical Principles and Codes of Professional Conduct)
 - **BASW** (Code of Ethics – professional accountability)

Scope

This applies to:

- Written session notes
- Electronic clinical records
- Assessment summaries
- Care plans and review notes
- Correspondence relating to therapy

Conditions

- Notes must be **accurate, relevant, and proportionate**
- Notes should record **professional observations and decisions**, not verbatim transcripts
- Stored securely with role-based access
- Reviewed periodically for ongoing necessity

After 7 years, records must be **securely deleted or destroyed**, unless there is a documented lawful reason to retain them for longer.

2. Recordings of Therapy Sessions (Video / Audio – e.g. Zoom)

Default Position

Therapy sessions are not recorded as standard practice.

Retention Period

Where recording is agreed and lawful:

- **30 days** is the preferred default
- **Up to 90 days maximum** where clearly justified (e.g. supervision or agreed training use)

Longer retention would require:

- Clear written justification
- Explicit renewed consent
- Approval by the Data Protection Lead / Clinical Lead

Regulatory and Ethical Basis

This approach aligns with:

- GDPR principles of **data minimisation and storage limitation**
- **BACP and UKCP** guidance cautioning against retention of raw recordings
- **HCPC** expectations around confidentiality and risk management

Recordings contain unfiltered special category data and therefore carry **significantly higher risk** than written notes.

3. Children, Safeguarding, and Family Contexts

Where therapy notes or recordings involve:

- Children
- Safeguarding concerns
- Child protection disclosures

Retention may be extended **only where necessary**, and must be:

- Justified on safeguarding or legal grounds
- Clearly documented
- Reviewed at regular intervals
- Proportionate to the identified risk

Indefinite retention is **not permitted**.

4. Consent and Retention Are Separate Decisions

Even where explicit consent has been given:

- Consent **does not override** GDPR retention limits
- Data must still be deleted once the purpose is fulfilled
- Retention periods must be clearly communicated at consent stage

Parents must be informed:

- How long notes are kept
- How long recordings (if any) are kept
- Their right to request erasure (subject to legal limitations)

5. Recommended Retention Schedule (Policy Table)

Record Type	Retention Period	Legal / Ethical Basis
Therapy session notes	7 years from end of therapy	Limitation Act, ICO, HCPC/BACP/UKCP
Assessments & care plans	7 years	As above
Supervision notes (non-identifiable)	7 years	Professional accountability
Therapy session recordings	30 days (up to 90 max)	Data minimisation, consent-based
Training recordings (with consent)	As agreed, max 90 days	Explicit consent required
Consent forms	7 years after service end	Evidence of lawful processing

Therapy records, including session notes and clinical documentation, will be retained for **7 years** from the end of the therapeutic relationship in line with UK GDPR, ICO guidance, and professional regulatory standards.

Recordings of therapy sessions will not be made routinely. Where recordings are made with explicit consent, they will be retained for the **shortest possible period**, normally no longer than **30 days**, and in exceptional circumstances no longer than **90 days**, after which they will be securely deleted.

Recording and Use of Online Therapy Sessions (e.g. Zoom)

12. Use of Video Conferencing Platforms

[Organisation Name] may deliver therapeutic services and consultations via secure online platforms such as Zoom or equivalent services that meet data protection and security standards.

All online sessions are conducted in accordance with:

- UK GDPR / GDPR
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Professional ethical standards
- Safeguarding and confidentiality obligations

Appropriate security measures (e.g. password-protected meetings, waiting rooms, encryption where available) will be used to protect service users' privacy.

13. Recording of Therapy Sessions

13.1 General Principle

Therapy sessions **will not be recorded as standard practice**.

Recording of online therapy sessions will only take place where:

- There is a **clear and lawful purpose**, and
- **Explicit informed consent** has been obtained in advance, and
- The recording is necessary and proportionate.

13.2 Lawful Basis and Special Category Data

Therapy session recordings constitute **special category personal data**, often involving health and family information.

Where recordings are made, the lawful basis will be:

- **Explicit consent** under Article 9(2)(a) of UK GDPR.

Consent must be:

- Freely given
- Specific
- Informed
- Unambiguous
- Documented

Parents have the right to refuse recording without any impact on access to services.

13.3 Permitted Purposes for Recording

Recordings may only be made for purposes such as:

- Professional supervision or reflective practice
- Training purposes (where explicitly agreed)
- Clinical governance or quality assurance

Recordings will **never** be used for:

- Marketing or promotional activities
- Automated analysis or AI processing
- Any secondary purpose without renewed consent

13.4 Storage, Access, and Retention

Where a session is recorded:

- Recordings will be stored securely using encrypted systems
- Access will be strictly limited to authorised professionals
- Recordings will not be stored on personal devices
- Recordings will not be shared via unsecured platforms

Retention periods will be clearly defined and proportionate, after which recordings will be **securely deleted** in line with the organisation's data retention schedule.

13.5 Participant Recording

Parents and service users are not permitted to record sessions themselves without prior agreement from the organisation and the practitioner. Any unauthorised recording may result in review or termination of services to protect confidentiality and professional boundaries.

Informed Consent for Online Therapy and Recording

14. Informed Consent for Online Therapy

Before commencing online therapy, parents will be provided with clear information covering:

- The nature and limits of online therapy
- Confidentiality and data protection
- Risks specific to online delivery (e.g. privacy, technology failure)
- How personal data will be processed and stored
- Their rights under data protection law

Consent for online therapy may be obtained in writing or electronically and will be documented in the service user record.

15. Informed Consent for Recording Sessions

15.1 Consent Process

Where recording is proposed, parents must be informed:

- Whether the session will be recorded
- The purpose of the recording
- Who will have access
- How long it will be retained
- How it will be securely stored
- Their right to withdraw consent at any time

Consent must be obtained:

- **Before recording begins**
- Separately from general service consent
- Without pressure or obligation

15.2 Ongoing Consent and Right to Withdraw

Consent to recording is **ongoing and revisitable**.

Parents may:

- Withdraw consent at any time
- Request deletion of recordings (subject to legal or safeguarding obligations)
- Continue therapy without recordings

Withdrawal of consent will not adversely affect the provision of therapeutic support.

16. Safeguarding and Best Practice Considerations

Practitioners must:

- Ensure parents are in a private, safe environment before sessions begin
- Confirm who is present in the room at the start of each session
- Remind parents of confidentiality boundaries during online work

- Stop recording immediately if safeguarding concerns arise

17. Staff Responsibilities

All staff and associates delivering online therapy must:

- Follow this policy and associated consent procedures
- Use organisation-approved platforms only
- Never record sessions on personal devices
- Escalate any concerns regarding consent, privacy, or data breaches immediately

Failure to comply with this policy may be treated as a data protection or safeguarding incident.

Consent Form: Recording of Online (Zoom) Therapy Sessions

Organisation name: [Insert organisation name]

Therapist / Practitioner: [Name]

Service user (parent): [Name]

Date: [Date]

1. Purpose of This Consent Form

This form asks for your explicit consent for the recording of an online therapy session delivered via Zoom (or a similar secure platform).

Recording therapy sessions is not routine practice. A session will only be recorded if you understand the reasons, agree freely, and give your clear consent.

You are not required to agree to recording in order to receive therapy.

2. Why a Session May Be Recorded

If a session is recorded, this will be for one or more of the following purposes only:

- Professional supervision or reflective practice
- Training purposes (with identifying details protected where possible)
- Clinical governance or quality assurance

The specific purpose of the recording will be explained to you in advance.

3. What Will Be Recorded

If you consent:

- The audio and/or video of the Zoom therapy session may be recorded
- The recording may include discussion of personal, family, or emotional matters

Recordings may include special category personal data under UK GDPR (such as health or family information).

4. How the Recording Will Be Stored and Protected

If a session is recorded:

- The recording will be stored securely using encrypted systems
- It will not be stored on personal devices
- Access will be strictly limited to authorised professionals
- The recording will not be shared with third parties
- The recording will not be used for marketing or promotional purposes
- The recording will not be used with AI or automated analysis tools

5. How Long the Recording Will Be Kept

Recordings will be kept for the shortest possible time.

- Typical retention period: up to 30 days
- In exceptional circumstances (e.g. agreed training use): up to 90 days maximum

After this period, the recording will be securely deleted.

6. Your Rights

You have the right to:

- Say no to recording (without affecting your therapy)
- Withdraw your consent at any time
- Ask for the recording to be deleted (unless there is a legal or safeguarding reason to retain it)
- Ask questions before, during, or after the session

Withdrawing consent will not negatively affect the therapeutic support you receive.

7. Important Information About Recording

- Therapy sessions are confidential, whether recorded or not
- You are asked not to record sessions yourself without prior agreement
- If you feel uncomfortable at any point, the recording can be stopped immediately

8. Consent Statement

Please read the statements below and tick to confirm your agreement:

I understand why this therapy session may be recorded
 I understand how the recording will be used, stored, and deleted
 I understand that I can refuse or withdraw consent at any time
 I understand that refusing consent will not affect my access to therapy
 I give my explicit consent for this therapy session to be recorded for the purpose explained to me

9. Signatures

Parent / Service User Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Practitioner Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Data Security - Disposal

When any personal data is to be erased or otherwise disposed of for any reason (including where copies have been made and are no longer needed), it should be securely deleted and disposed of.

Data Security - Use of Personal Data

The Company shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to the use of personal data:

- No personal data may be shared informally and if an employee, agent, subcontractor, or other party working on behalf of the Company requires access to any personal data that they do not already have access to, such access should be formally requested from The Data Protection Officer,

- No personal data may be transferred to any employees, agents, contractors, or other parties, whether such parties are working on behalf of the Company or not, without the authorisation of The Data Protection Officer;
- Personal data must be handled with care at all times and should not be left unattended or on view to unauthorised employees, agents, sub-contractors, or other parties at any time;
- If personal data is being viewed on a computer screen and the computer in question is to be left unattended for any period of time, the user must lock the computer and screen before leaving it; and
- Where personal data held by the Company is used for marketing purposes, it shall be the responsibility of Gabrielle Stirling to ensure that the appropriate consent is obtained and that no data subjects have opted out, whether directly or via a third-party service such as the TPS.

Data Security - IT Security

The Company shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to IT and information security:

- All passwords used to protect personal data should be changed regularly and should not use words or phrases that can be easily guessed or otherwise compromised. All passwords must contain a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols;
- Under no circumstances should any passwords be written down or shared between any employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company, irrespective of seniority or department. If a password is forgotten, it must be reset using the applicable method. IT staff do not have access to passwords;
- All software (including, but not limited to, applications and operating systems) shall be kept up-to-date. The Company's IT staff shall be responsible for installing any and all security-related updates after the updates are made available by the publisher or manufacturer, unless there are valid technical reasons not to do so; and
- No software may be installed on any Company-owned computer or device without the prior approval of the Company.

Organisational Measures

The Company shall ensure that the following measures are taken with respect to the collection, holding, and processing of personal data:

- All employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company shall be made fully aware of both their individual responsibilities and the Company's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 2018 and under this Policy, and shall be provided with a copy of this Policy;
- Only employees, agents, sub-contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company that need access to, and use of, personal data in order to carry out their assigned duties correctly shall have access to personal data held by the Company;
- All employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company handling personal data will be appropriately trained to do so;

- All employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company handling personal data will be appropriately supervised;
- All employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company handling personal data shall be required and encouraged to exercise care, caution, and discretion when discussing work-related matters that relate to personal data, whether in the workplace or otherwise;
- Methods of collecting, holding, and processing personal data shall be regularly evaluated and reviewed;
- All personal data held by the Company shall be reviewed periodically, as set out in the Company's Data Retention Policy;
- The performance of those employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company handling personal data shall be regularly evaluated and reviewed;
- All employees, agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company handling personal data will be bound to do so in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 and this Policy by contract;
- All agents, contractors, or other parties working on behalf of the Company handling personal data must ensure that any and all of their employees who are involved in the processing of personal data are held to the same conditions as those relevant employees of the Company arising out of this Policy and the Data Protection Act 2018; and
- Where any agent, contractor or other party working on behalf of the Company handling personal data fails in their obligations under this Policy that party shall indemnify and hold harmless the Company against any costs, liability, damages, loss, claims or proceedings which may arise out of that failure.

Transferring Personal Data to a Country Outside the EEA

The Company may from time to time transfer ('transfer' includes making available remotely) personal data to countries outside of the EEA.

The transfer of personal data to a country outside of the EEA shall take place only if one or more of the following applies:

- The transfer is to a country, territory, or one or more specific sectors in that country (or an international organisation), that the European Commission has determined ensures an adequate level of protection for personal data;
- The transfer is to a country (or international organisation) which provides appropriate safeguards in the form of a legally binding agreement between public authorities or bodies; binding corporate rules; standard data protection clauses adopted by the European Commission; compliance with an approved code of conduct approved by a supervisory authority (e.g. the Information Commissioner's Office); certification under an approved certification mechanism (as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018); contractual clauses agreed and authorised by the competent supervisory authority; or provisions inserted into administrative arrangements between public authorities or bodies authorised by the competent supervisory authority;
- The transfer is made with the informed consent of the relevant data subject(s);
- The transfer is necessary for the performance of a contract between the data subject and the Company (or for pre-contractual steps taken at the request of the data subject);

- The transfer is necessary for important public interest reasons;
- The transfer is necessary for the conduct of legal claims;
- The transfer is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or other individuals where the data subject is physically or legally unable to give their consent; or
- The transfer is made from a register that, under UK or EU law, is intended to provide information to the public and which is open for access by the public in general or otherwise to those who are able to show a legitimate interest in accessing the register.

Data Breach Notification

- All personal data breaches must be reported immediately to the Company's Data Protection Officer.
- If a personal data breach occurs and that breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects (e.g. financial loss, breach of confidentiality, discrimination, reputational damage, or other significant social or economic damage), the Data Protection Officer must ensure that the Information Commissioner's Office is informed of the breach without delay, and in any event, within 72 hours after having become aware of it.
- In the event that a personal data breach is likely to result in a high risk (that is, a higher risk than that described under Part 29.2) to the rights and freedoms of data subjects, the Data Protection Officer must ensure that all affected data subjects are informed of the breach directly and without undue delay.
- Data breach notifications shall include the following information:
 - The categories and approximate number of data subjects concerned;
 - The categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned;
 - The name and contact details of the Company's data protection officer (or other contact point where more information can be obtained);
 - The likely consequences of the breach;
 - Details of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, by the Company to address the breach including, where appropriate, measures to mitigate its possible adverse effects.

This policy has been approved & authorised by:

Name: Jackie Lindeck and Rachael Aylmer

Position: Company Directors

Date: January 2026

Policy Review Date: January 2029



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