

Risk Assessment Policy and Procedure

Review – September 2027

Introduction

Dedham therapy Farm takes the safety and enjoyment of activity in their session very seriously. The company ensures that activity at Dedham Therapy Farm and those facilitated in the community are safe and all risk involved are explored and mitigated. Dedham Therapy Farm uses their own risk assessment templates for staff to complete. Management completes an overall risk assessment for the setting, while therapists complete individual risk assessment for their case load of Farm Assistants. The general risk assessment is reviewed annually or more often where required and individual risk assessments are review on ongoing basis. Activities outside of the general risk assessment require a one-off risk assessment to be completed prior to undertaking the activity. If this activity becomes a regular activity, it is then added to the general risk assessment. Staff are encouraged to take a positive risk approach in all activities at in session. Staff are provided with in house risk assessment training during their induction and are provided with opportunity for peer discussion around risk awareness.

Procedure

- Management completes a general risk assessment and reviews this annually.
- Before a Farm Assistant accesses the service, we require a referral form to be completed, this helps staff identify any risks. Further information is gathered during an initial assessment to further understand the Farm Assistants' level of risk. This information is used to form an individual risk assessment.
- Individual risk assessments are reviewed on an ongoing basis as the therapist gets to know the Farm Assistants and observes engagement with the service.
- We have termly therapy meetings where risk is raised and discussed amongst the team. This enables the team to put in measures that are appropriate for everyone.
- Each morning higher levels of risk are identified and shared with the team so all can be prepared in case an incident arises.
- For each session therapists are required to document an overview of their session and highlight valued and detrimental behaviours seen which may alter the level of risk. If this happens the risk assessment must be immediately altered.
- All risk assessments are to be signed and dated by the staff member completing or altering it.
- All risk assessments must be in the Dedham Therapy Farm format to ensure all staff are able to understand and implement measures easily.