**Risk Assessment for Working with Challenging Behaviour in Family Homes and 1:1 with Children**

**Differences not Disabilities**

Risk Assessment Conducted By: \_\_\_Kurt King\_

Date: \_\_24.07.24\_\_

Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_24.07.25\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Introduction

This risk assessment aims to identify and mitigate potential risks associated with working with children exhibiting challenging behaviour in family homes and in extreme circumstances on a 1:1 basis. This includes assessing environmental, physical, and emotional risks to ensure the safety and well-being of both the child and the staff member.

2. Activity Description

Activity: Working with children who exhibit challenging behaviour in family homes and on a 1:1 basis.

Location: Family homes and various off-site locations.

Duration: Variable, depending on individual support plans.

3. Potential Hazards and Risks

Physical Harm

Hazard: Aggressive or violent behaviour from the child.

Risk: Physical injury to the child, staff member, or others in the vicinity.

Control Measures:

Comprehensive Behaviour Support Plan (BSP) in place.

Staff trained in Proact-SCIPr-UK (Loddon) techniques.

Safe environment assessment prior to sessions.

Clear protocols for managing and de-escalating aggression.

**Emotional Stress**

Hazard: Emotional distress from handling challenging behaviours.

Risk: Stress or burnout in staff members; emotional distress in the child.

Control Measures:

Regular supervision and debriefing sessions for staff.

Access to mental health and counselling services.

Implementation of coping strategies and self-care routines.

Ensuring the child has access to emotional support and outlets.

**Environmental Risks**

Hazard: Unsafe or unpredictable home environment.

Risk: Accidents or incidents due to hazardous home conditions.

Control Measures:

Pre-visit risk assessment of the home environment.

Identifying and mitigating potential hazards (e.g., sharp objects, unsecured furniture).

Ensuring an emergency exit plan is in place.

**Inadequate Training**

Hazard: Staff not adequately trained to handle challenging behaviours.

Risk: Ineffective management of challenging behaviours, increased risk of harm.

Control Measures:

Regular training sessions in Proact-SCIPr-UK (Loddon) and behaviour management.

Ongoing professional development and refresher courses.

Ensuring all staff are aware of and understand the BSP.

**Communication Breakdowns**

Hazard: Miscommunication between staff, parents, and the child.

Risk: Misunderstanding of behaviour triggers and inappropriate responses.

Control Measures:

Clear and regular communication channels between all parties.

Use of visual aids and communication tools as needed.

Regular meetings to discuss progress and concerns.

**Travel Risks**

Hazard: Transporting the child to and from different locations.

Risk: Accidents or incidents during transportation.

Control Measures:

Using safe and appropriate transportation methods.

Ensuring staff are trained in safe transportation of children with challenging behaviours.

Having emergency contact information and first aid kits available.

**4. Risk Management Plan**

Preparation and Planning

Develop individualized BSPs for each child.

Conduct pre-visit risk assessments of the home environment.

Ensure all staff are trained and equipped to handle specific challenges.

**During the Visit**

Implement proactive strategies to prevent challenging behaviours.

Use active strategies to manage emerging behaviours.

Employ reactive strategies only when necessary and as a last resort.

Continuously monitor the child's behaviour and the environment for potential risks.

Post-Visit Procedures

Conduct debriefing sessions with staff to discuss any incidents.

Review and update the BSP as necessary.

Provide support and resources to both the child and their family.

5. Emergency Procedures

In Case of Severe Behavioural Incidents:

Follow the crisis intervention plan outlined in the BSP.

Use safe physical intervention techniques as a last resort.

Contact emergency services if the situation escalates beyond control.

In Case of Injury:

Administer first aid if needed and contact medical professionals.

Report the incident according to company procedures.

Conduct a thorough review to prevent future occurrences.

6. Sign-Off

Risk Assessment Completed By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Management Approval:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Review and Monitoring

This risk assessment will be reviewed annually, or sooner if there are significant changes in the work environment, the child's behaviour, or following an incident. Continuous monitoring will ensure that the control measures remain effective and relevant.

By following this risk assessment, Differences not Disabilities is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for children with challenging behaviours and ensuring the safety and well-being of both the child and the staff.