CONCORDIA COUNSELLING

APPENDIX A

1. SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1.1 I am a member of the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP) and adhere strictly to all relevant statutory requirements and the provisions of the BACP Ethical Framework. I take the confidentiality of your information extremely seriously. The means by which I will protect your private information and data are set out in the separate Privacy Policy (Appendix B).

1.2 As mentioned within the Privacy Policy, other than by order of a court of law or other statutory requirement, the only circumstance in which I might be obliged to make a disclosure concerning any discussion within a counselling session (or relevant records) would be upon triggering of this Safeguarding Policy.

1.3 During the first session of therapy, we will review the counselling contract, a copy of which I will produce to you prior to entering into a therapeutic relationship. Stated within the counselling contract, Privacy Policy and this Safeguarding Policy is confirmation of those conditions which might potentially initiate requirement for disclosure of private information. In the event that I perceive a necessity to trigger this Safeguarding Policy, endeavour will be made to discuss the situation with you wherever possible before taking further action. To be clear, that does not mean after discussion that I promise to not make a safeguarding disclosure; but I do promise to act ethically and in your best interests, in accordance with the requirements explained above.

1.4 In simple terms, if during a session I have reason to believe that you represent a threat to the wellbeing of either yourself or anybody else, then I am obliged to meet my duty of care to you and anyone else who may potentially be affected. If this requires disclosure outside of normal confidentiality, if possible, I will seek to discuss the matter with my supervisor, having firstly discussed the matter with you. If I am able to speak to my supervisor prior to any safeguarding disclosure, then I will discuss this with them and carry out the most appropriate plan of action, based upon those discussions.

1.5 If I am unable to speak to my supervisor within a timescale commensurate with my perception of the urgency of the situation; then I will in the first instance, call your GP (details of whom I shall require prior to entering into a therapeutic relationship).

1.6 Whether or not I am able to consult with my supervisor, I will notify your GP of any concerns, unless my supervisor suggests or the situation demands an alternative course of action. In addition, I will notify other third–parties as appropriate (including emergency services), where this is necessary to ensure my duty of care to you or anyone else who may potentially be affected. I will always endeavour to ensure that the any action taken is appropriate and proportionate; but will prioritise safety and wellbeing, taking into account the above requirements.