

Safeguarding Children Policy

Purpose:

The Sunbury Health Centre (the Practice) is committed to protecting children from abuse and neglect, preventing impairment of health and development, and ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care enables children to have optimum life changes and enter adulthood successfully.

This Policy is in place to:

- Provide awareness for all staff of the importance of prompt and effective action in response to child protection concerns
- To practice good inter-agency cooperation at all levels
- To ensure that agreed multi-agency procedures are followed in dealing with cases of child abuse
- To promote the sharing of information in order to safeguard the welfare of children at risk

Scope:

The Practice is committed to implementing this Policy. This Policy will be made accessible to staff and Partners and will be reviewed regularly.

The commitment to the safeguarding of children means that many different Practice protocols and policies include mention of child protection. The purpose of this Policy is to give an overview of Child Protection procedures, and signpost to the specific Policies as appropriate.

It addresses the responsibilities of the Practice team and those outside the team with whom it works. It is for the Practice Manager to brief the staff and partners on their responsibilities under the Policy, including new starters and sessional GPs. For employees, failure to adhere to the Policy could lead to dismissal or constitute 'gross misconduct'.

Responsibilities:

The Practice will:

- Make arrangements to take all reasonable measures to ensure that risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised including protecting children from maltreatment and preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensure all national, regional and local guidelines are followed as applicable to the practice
- Work with colleagues in other disciplines (Health Visitors, Social services etc.) to ensure timely and appropriate action.
- Share information essential to enable early intervention and preventative work, for safeguarding and promoting welfare and for wider public protection
- Make a referral to Children's Services as appropriate
- Manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse
- Recruit staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made

Provide effective management for staff, through support and training.