

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY

This Policy will enable Sunbury Health Centre (the Practice) to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe patients who are vulnerable adults, and other vulnerable adults, with whom it comes into contact with. The Practice duly acknowledges its duty to respond appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

It is important to have the Policy and Procedures in place, so that all who work at the Practice can work to prevent abuse - and know what to do in the event of abuse.

The Policy Statement and Procedures has been drawn up in order to enable the Practice to:

- Promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring
- Ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported
- Stop that abuse occurring

Definition: Vulnerable adults are defined as:

- People aged 18 or over
- Who are receiving or may need community care services because of learning, physical or mental disability, age or illness
- Who are or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation
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Scope

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of vulnerable adults are abused and it is important that the Practice has a Safeguarding Adults Policy, a set of procedures to follow and puts in place preventative measures to try and reduce these numbers.

The Practice is committed to implementing this Policy. The Policy will be made accessible to staff and Partners and will be reviewed annually. It addresses the responsibilities of all members of the Practice team, and those outside the team with whom it works. It is the role of the Safeguarding Adults Lead and the Practice Manager to brief all staff and partners on their responsibilities under the Policy, including new starters and sessional GP's. For employees, failure to adhere to the Policy could lead to dismissal or constitute 'gross misconduct'.

In order to implement this Policy, the Practice will work:

- To promote the freedom and dignity of the person who has or is experiencing abuse
- To promote the rights of all people to live free from abuse and coercion
- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing
- To manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse
- To recruit staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- To provide effective management for staff through support and training

Responsibilities

The Practice will:

- Work with other agencies within the framework of the local Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Procedures
- Act within GMC guidance on confidentiality, and will usually gain permission from patients before sharing information about them with another agency
- Pass information to Adult Services when more than one person is at risk - for instance, if there are concerns regarding any form of abuse including neglect, within a care home
- Inform patients that where:
 - A person is in danger
 - A child is at risk
 - A crime has been committed

then a decision may be taken to pass information to another agency without the services user's consent

- Make a referral to Adult Services as appropriate
- Endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults

The Practice recognises that it is the role of the Practice to be aware of maltreatment and share concerns, but not to investigate or to decide whether or not a vulnerable adult has been abused.