

Market Street Medical Practice

Safeguarding Adults Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to enable the organisation to effectively work to promote the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults. The Practice ties into policies and procedures for the Cumbria Local Safeguarding Adults Board, including those for the sharing of information.

2. Practice Safeguarding Leads

Practice Safeguarding Lead: Dr J J O'Donovan

Deputy: Nurse K Bosson

The Safeguarding Practice Lead:

- Acts as a focus for external contacts on safeguarding matters
- Is responsible for dissemination of safeguarding policy and procedures
- Takes a lead role in planning and delivering regular staff training

3. Definition

A vulnerable adult is someone over the age of 18 years who may be unable to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, which may be by reason of illness, age, mental illness, disability or other types of physical or mental impairment. Those at risk may live alone, be dependent on others (care homes etc.), elderly, or socially isolated.

There are many **forms of abuse**, including:

- Neglect – ignoring mental or physical needs, care, education, or basic life necessities or rights
- Bullying – family, carers, friends
- Financial – theft or use of money or possessions
- Sexual – assault, rape, non-consensual acts (including acts where unable to give consent), touching, indecent exposure
- Physical – hitting, assault, man-handling, restraint, pain or forcing medication
- Psychological – threats, fear, being controlled, taunts, isolation
- Discrimination – abuse based on perceived differences and vulnerabilities
- Institutional abuse – in hospitals, care homes, support services or individuals within them, including inappropriate behaviours, discrimination, prejudice, and lack of essential safeguards

Abuse may be deliberate or as a result of lack of attention or thought, and may involve combinations of all or any of the above forms. It may be regular or on an occasional or single event basis, however it will result in some degree of suffering to the individual concerned. Abuse may also take place between one vulnerable adult and another, for example between residents of care homes or other institutions.

Indications of possible abuse include: bruising; burns; falls; apparent lack of personal care; nervousness or withdrawn; avoidance of topics of discussion; inadequate living conditions or confinement to one room in their own home; inappropriate controlling by carers or family members; obstacles preventing personal visitors or one-to-one personal discussion; sudden changes in personality; lack of freedom to move outside the home, or to be on their own; refusal by carers to allow the patient into further care or to change environs; lack of access to own money; lack of mobility aids when needed

4. Training

All staff are trained in safeguarding issues at the appropriate level:

Administrative staff: level 1
Clinical: level 2
GPs: level 3

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Lead GP and deputy lead: level 3

5. Regular safeguarding meetings

Safeguarding meetings are held at least bi-monthly and include GPs, nurses and the Health Visitor. It is chaired by the Practice Manager and notes/actions are recorded and reviewed. Safeguarding is now a standing agenda item on every weekly GP partner meeting.

6. Action required if you are concerned

If you are concerned an adult may be subject to abuse: Report to safeguarding lead, Dr O'Donovan

Where abuse of a vulnerable adult is suspected the welfare of the patient takes priority. In deciding whether to disclose concerns to a third party or other agency the GP will assess the risk to the patient. Ideally the matter should be discussed with the patient involved first, and attempt made to obtain consent to refer the matter to the appropriate agency. Where this is not possible, or in the case of emergency where serious harm is to be prevented, the patient's doctor will balance the need to protect the patient with the duty of confidentiality before deciding whether to refer. The patient should usually be informed that the doctor intends to disclose information, and advice and support should be offered. Where time permits, the medical defence organisation will be telephoned before any action is taken.

Due regard will be taken of the patient's capacity to provide a valid consent. (See also Consent Policy & Protocol).

In assessing the risk to the individual, the following factors will be considered:

- Nature of abuse, and severity
- Chance of recurrence, and when
- Frequency
- Vulnerability of the adult (frailty, age, physical condition etc.)
- Those involved – family, carers, strangers, visitors etc.
- Whether other third parties are also at risk (other members of the same household may be abused at the same time)

7. Information in EMIS records

Our data entry clerk creates a flag in patient records to alert clinicians of any significant issue and Dr O'Donovan is alerted when any communications arrive that have potential safeguarding implications.

8. Recruitment of staff

All new members of staff, whether clinical or administrative, will undergo a DBS check at an enhanced level, which is provided by the Practice.

9. Further Information

The following link to Cumbria Local Safeguarding Adults Board provides up to date information and advice:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/adultsocialcare/safe/clsab.asp>

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USEFUL CONTACTS MAY 2016	
SERVICE	CONTACT NUMBER
Police (local)	101
South Cumbria Community & Mental Health Services	01229 430333
Adult Social Care Local Office 4th Floor, Craven House, Michaelson Road, Barrow in Furness, LA14 1FD. Fax: 01229 404054. Email: barrowssd@cumbria.gov.uk	Furness East 01229 407874 Furness West 01229 407446 Furness North 01229 407444
Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)	01228 526690
Furness Locality GP Lead for Safeguarding - Dr Lauren Dixon County lead GP, Adult Safeguarding - Dr Venetia Young Designated Nurse Safeguarding - Louise Mason-Lodge Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding - Simon Parker Safeguarding Business Manager - Anne Cooke	
Age UK, Barrow and Furness	01229 831425
Age UK, Emergency Contact Samaritans	08457 90 90 90
Cumbria Alcohol& Drug Advisory Team (CADAS)	01229 811133
Mental Health Helpline	0800 171 2333
Single Point of Access	0300 123 9015
Furness Carer's Association	01229 822 822

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