

Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

We are committed to protecting vulnerable adults from harm. We believe that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity, have their choices respected and live a life free from fear. Our team has an ethical responsibility to recognize vulnerable adults suffering from or at risk of abuse or neglect to ensure they receive proper care that promotes health and welfare. We also have a responsibility to ensure vulnerable adults are not at risk from members of our team.

We are not responsible for making a diagnosis of abuse or neglect but must share any concerns appropriately.

Our Safeguarding Leads are **Christopher Needham** and **Michael Clark** and any queries or concerns can be discussed with them.

Who is a vulnerable adult ?

The definition "vulnerable adult" refers to a person aged 18 or over who "is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation".

This **may** include a person who:

- Is elderly and frail
- Has a mental illness including dementia
- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is a substance misuser
- Is homeless

Our Commitment

- We take the protection of vulnerable adults seriously and will respond appropriately to concerns about their welfare;
- We have a named Safeguarding Lead;
- We have a code of conduct for all the dental team;
- We provide a safe and appropriate environment;
- We adopt a holistic approach, that focuses on individual needs and provision of any necessary support
- We ensure that accurate, adequate, and updated records are kept.
- We ensure that staff are clearly instructed and understand that it is never acceptable under any circumstances :
 - for them to hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse vulnerable adults
 - to develop relationships with vulnerable adults, which could in any way be deemed inappropriate or exploitative.
 - to act in any way that may be deemed abusive or through their acts or in actions, place vulnerable adults at risk of abuse.
 - to act in ways that shame, humiliate or degrade

- We will not discriminate against vulnerable adults or provide differential treatment;
- We will ensure all staff understand that all incidents, accidents and/or complaints of any type involving vulnerable adults are reported in accordance with the practice incident reporting policy as soon as possible to the safeguarding lead.
- We encourage staff to report any concerns in relation to perceived abuse and to have their concerns treated confidentially, with the necessary support and protection
- We will share information about concerns with agencies who need to know
- We follow procedures for staff recruitment and selection and ensure an enhanced DBS check is completed for all staff;
- We provide effective management for staff by ensuring access to supervision, support and training;
- We review our procedures and good practice at regular intervals.