

Safeguarding Policy

As part of the initiative to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the following publications have been issued;

“What to do if you’re worried a Child is being abused:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf

This document sets out the following:

Responsibility – why you need to know about child protection
Recognising – what you need to know to recognise abuse and neglect
Responding – what you need to do if you’re worried about a child
Reorganising – how to prepare your practice to safeguard children
Resources – additional materials to support you together with documents to copy

It includes a flow chart for action which can be downloaded as a PDF and is available at www.cpdtd.org.uk

Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It can take a number of forms:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation
- Grooming
- Emotional/psychological abuse
- Financial abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Discriminatory abuse
- Personal exploitation
- Trafficking
- Modern Slavery
- Violation of rights
- Institutional abuse
- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Online abuse
- Non-recent abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical Abuse includes assault, hitting, kicking, slapping, punching, pushing, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Domestic Abuse:

The Government's definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, honour based violence, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The offence of coercive and controlling behaviour in intimate and familial relationships was introduced into the Serious Crime Act (2015) and recognition of violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) is part of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation is the partial or complete removal of the female genitalia for non-medical reasons which is commonplace, in many communities, in 30 countries in Western, Eastern, and North-eastern Africa, in parts of the Middle East and Asia, and within some immigrant communities in Europe, North America and Australia.

The Prohibition of *Female Circumcision* Act 1985 outlaws the practice, making it an offence to perform FGM on children or adults. It is mandatory to report it if you suspect that someone has had FGM, or is at risk of FGM. FGM can be carried out at any age in childhood and as this form of abuse is cultural, daughters of females who have had FGM are at risk. Therefore, although unlikely in dental practice, any disclosure should be reported.

The government has produced a flow chart for reporting:

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525405/FGM_mandatory_reporting_map_A.pdf

Guidance and other resources for safeguarding against FGM are available at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare>

Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation

Sexual abuse and exploitation includes rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual acts to which an adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This can include "non-contact" sexual acts such as indecent exposure, online abuse, non-consensual pornographic activities.

Any of these acts with a child is considered as abuse, as they cannot consent.

Grooming

Any communication with a child for the purpose of sexually abusing them is legally considered to be *grooming* and is classified as an *offence*.

Emotional/psychological abuse

Emotional and psychological abuse includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Financial abuse

Financial abuse includes theft, fraud and exploitation, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. This can include "cuckooing" where a person's property is taken over and used for illegal activities.

Neglect or acts of omission

Neglect or acts of omission include wilfully ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health and social care, including not supporting a person to access clinical appointments and support, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating or depriving someone of stimulation or company, adaptations, equipment or aids to communication.

Discriminatory abuse

Discriminatory abuse is the unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation (known as 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act (2010)).

Modern Slavery (including personal exploitation and trafficking)

Modern slavery is the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides the legal framework to protect individuals from traffickers and slave masters.

An annual modern slavery statement must be published by all commercial organisations that meet all the following criteria:

1. It is a 'body corporate' or a partnership, wherever incorporated or formed
2. It carries on a business, or part of a business, in the UK
3. It supplies goods or services
4. It has an annual turnover of £36 million or more

This will NOT apply to most dental practices, but organisations are responsible for determining whether the legislation applies to them. You may wish to seek legal advice to decide if your organisation needs to produce an annual statement.

Further information is available at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publish-an-annual-modern-slavery-statement>

Violation of Human Rights

The violation of an individual's rights includes the right to freedom of speech. This might include being prevented from speaking his/her thoughts and opinions.

Institutional abuse

Institutional abuse is classed as an incident or as a series of incidents involving ongoing ill treatment. It can be through neglect or from poor professional practice resulting from inadequate structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation, This may range from isolated incidents to continuing ill treatment in an institution or in relation to care provided in one's own home.

Bullying and cyberbullying

Bullying is the act or acts of seeking to harm, intimidate, or coerce usually someone perceived as vulnerable.

Cyber Bullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

Although there is no legal definition of bullying in the UK, it would fall under the Children Act 1989 if there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

Online Abuse

The sort of behaviour that counts as online harassment or abuse includes:

Trolling. trying to damage your reputation by making false comments or encouraging other people to be abusive or violent towards groups of people. Online abuse can be classed as a criminal offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Non-recent abuse or historical abuse

The impact of child abuse can last a lifetime. Abuse can have a huge effect on someone's health, relationships and education. They may find it harder to cope with life's stresses, getting a job or being the type of parent they want to be. They may also develop mental health problems and drug or alcohol issues. If someone has been abused as a child, it's more likely that they'll suffer abuse again. This is known as revictimisation.

For more information see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/non-recent-abuse/>

Freedom to speak up.

Our organisation encourages the freedom to speak up.

Our aim is for at least 2 members of the community to have Level 1 & 2 Safeguarding training