



SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

These guidelines sit alongside the JCCP Code of Conduct 2020. They are designed to assist you to manage your practice in relation to safeguarding and adhere to the standards set out by any organisation that you are working for. These guidelines are designed to inform and enable adherence to standards of good practice within a sound ethical framework. It is important that you keep up to date with the statutory regulations pertaining to safeguarding in your part of the UK as there are different interpretations and processes across the individual home nations.

Safeguarding practices and procedures are drawn up within a legal framework. Local Authorities have clearly laid out responsibility for making provision for these to be carried out. This includes the provision of a designated safeguarding lead professional who is available to support with enquiries or reported cases of disclosure, or where there is reasonable cause to suspect significant harm. This is available to the general public and to all professionals including those working in private practice or working alone. Your local authority can provide you with details of your local Safeguarding Officer.

The JCCP requires all practitioners to engage in regular supervision as determined within our published Code of Conduct. Supervision provides a space where safeguarding issues can be discussed. By giving yourself time to discuss in supervision, you can separate yourself from the emotion of the moment so that you can see things clearly, which allows for consideration of the many things that may need to be taken into account. The JCCP recognises that many of our Registrants working in private practice or alone and acknowledge that practitioners may occasionally face dilemmas that will require careful judgment and consideration. The following guidelines consider key points in relation to the interface between the requirements of safeguarding procedure and the role of the practitioner. The JCCP has cited the following key principles of ethical practice in its Code of Conduct: avoiding harm, benevolence, candour, competence, honesty, human rights and social justice and personal accountability. Practitioners are reminded that each situation is unique, and the process of learning will be continuous.

Practitioners should be aware that abuse may be physical, psychological, sexual, financial, material, discriminatory, or involve neglect. If working directly with a vulnerable adult you may hear or see signs that reasonably indicate preliminary evidence that they or another person have suffered, is suffering, or is likely to suffer actual abuse. You may also become aware of possible abuse via other means, for example through the use of social media.

All aesthetic practitioners have duty of care and responsibility to protect vulnerable adults, your client and yourself. You should also proportionately assess the 'weight' of the evidence pertaining to your concerns. The JCCP Code of Conduct requires you to be cognisant of issues relating to capacity to 'capacity' when making choices and decisions; sometimes choices that you may consider harmful. Whenever you believe there is a significant issue of concern regarding a safeguarding issue then the JCCP is of the opinion that you should undertake to discuss this matter with your Local Authority Safeguarding Officer in order to obtain advice on whether to pursue the matter further.

Any decision to follow up or to report a safeguarding concern must be considered in the best interest of the client or adult who is considered to be at risk. Under such circumstances you are advised to declare an expression of concern: reassure but do not promise inappropriate confidentiality. Good practice is to make clear that client/patient safety or the safety of others is a matter of concern, the practitioner may need to talk with relevant people in order to ensure their safety. You may want to remind a client of this agreement and make them aware of any statutory responsibilities that could be invoked by specific disclosures. There are helpful definitions of abuse relating to children and adults to be found in Appendix 2 of the NHS Safeguarding Policy (June 2015). In the case of adults, the threshold of significant harm has been replaced by the phrase 'adult at risk' from: self-neglect, modern slavery, domestic abuse and exploitation (Adult and Care Act 2014).

If your assessment of risk suggests that you need to take urgent action you can call the local authority designated safeguarding lead professional or local authority duty care officer who will have experience of dealing with many cases and ask for advice on the case.

Following the above steps your actions you should make full notes of your decision, actions and reasons for them – the rationale for your decision should also be recorded. But also consider how to respect the confidentiality of clients and treat information that does not need to be disclosed about them as confidential.

Remember that you can share confidential information without consent if it is required by law, or directed by the court, or if the benefit to the adult that will arise from sharing that information outweigh both the public and the individual's interest in keeping the information confidential. The key issue is to discuss concerns with your Local Authority Safeguarding Team if you are uncertain that the adult is at risk. They are the body that takes responsibility (ultimately passed to the courts) for any further action. In the first instance you may want to withhold personal details of the person at risk. In sharing concerns about neglect and abuse you are not making the final decision on how best to protect the individual.

Our duty is always to uphold the best interests of members of the public and to seek to protect vulnerable members of society to the very best of our ability.

David Sines – Executive Chair and Registrar – JCCP March 2023

Adapted from the UKCP 'Safeguarding Guidelines' - 2017