

Safeguarding Statement



The Safeguarding responsibilities of The Paddock Pool (the clinic), including children, young people and adults at risk includes the provision of safe, high-quality care for all those who use and attend our services.

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Context

As the legal frameworks, national policy and evidence change, the clinic reviews its safeguarding provision to ensure it is relevant and in line with our national and local authority agencies.

The clinic ensures that the duties and principles of safeguarding children and adults are applied diligently and consistently using a holistic approach. We respect the need for patient autonomy and support the empowerment of patients' right to make individual decisions.

The clinic works with the relevant agencies to deliver its safeguarding responsibilities collectively. This partnership working allows the clinic to help and support those needing safeguarding support.

The clinic works with our practitioners to ensure those at risk and their families are supported consistently whilst undergoing treatment at The Paddock Pool.

Legal framework

There are multiple legislative acts that regulate how The Paddock Pool enacts its safeguarding responsibilities for children and adults. Those over 18 with the capacity to do so, have the right to make their own decisions, even if these are

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unwise. If an adult makes unwise decisions that continually put them at risk of maltreatment, then further investigation may be needed.

Decision making power for children lies with those who have parental responsibility. If children or those responsible for them reject measures that could save them from significant harm, their wishes can be overridden. If a child is capable of making a reasonable assessment of the treatment proposed, the consent, if given, can be described as true consent in accordance with the Gillick principles. Parents and carers can still be involved unless the Fraser guidelines apply.

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) empowers children aged 16 and 17 to make their own decisions unless it is established, they do not have the capacity to do this. The Mental Health Act (MHA) covers people of any age.

The Paddock Pool's duties

The Paddock Pool are fully committed to providing the highest standards of safeguarding practice. The Paddock Pool believes that everyone has a right to:

- Live free from violence, fear and abuse
- Be protected from harm and exploitation
- Be independent - which may involve some risk
- Say 'No' to anything they don't fully understand.

The Paddock Pool considers that safeguarding is the responsibility of all our practitioners and partners. All of us have a duty of care to share concerns about a patient or practitioner welfare if they believe they are suffering, or likely to suffer harm.

The clinic works in partnership with local agencies to facilitate effective information sharing. Practitioners at the Paddock Pool have access to the safeguarding lead for advice and support and information can be shared if it is done to protect children or adults at risk.

All practitioners working at the clinic are screened using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The Clinic Partners also complete the Fit and Proper



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Persons Test. The clinic acts in an open and honest way to patients, relatives and practitioners in terms of care provision to ensure good safeguarding practice. This includes following duty of Candour in relation to any unexpected or unintended incidents that may occur and which may cause harm.

The Paddock Pool's roles and responsibilities

The clinic safeguarding policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Partners. Consent for care and treatment of patients is obtained in line with legislation and guidance.

The clinic has safeguarding accountability and assurance arrangements in place and internal scrutiny is managed by the Partners.

All Clinic partners and practitioners are trained in line with their role in:

- Safeguarding adults
- Safeguarding children
- Prevent
- Domestic abuse
- Mental Capacity Act
- Deprivation of Liberties.

The clinic has arrangements in place for dealing with allegations against the practitioners who work with the patients. The clinic also has a safeguarding policy, which is regularly updated.

Our practitioners are aware of their personal responsibility to report any concerns and to ensure poor clinical practice is identified and tackled.