

Northallerton Osteopaths Safeguarding Adults Policy

Introduction

The safety and welfare of our patients is of the utmost importance. Because of the day-to-day contact with adults our team has, all those who work at Northallerton Osteopaths are well placed to provide a safe environment for the adults in our care whilst also remaining vigilant for the outward signs of abuse. All practitioners and support staff working in the practice contribute to providing a safe environment (physical and emotional) to protect vulnerable adults from harm and abuse, being aware that any adult may be at risk of harm or abuse.

Northallerton Osteopaths is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

Northallerton Osteopaths will fulfil our duty to safeguard and protect the welfare of our patients by identifying any adult with welfare concerns and taking action to address them in partnership with families and other agencies where appropriate.

We are committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

Northallerton Osteopaths is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Policy Statement

Northallerton Osteopaths believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

Northallerton Osteopaths is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Northallerton Osteopaths acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

Northallerton Osteopaths recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

Northallerton Osteopaths recognises that there is a legal framework within which to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves and will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Actions taken by Northallerton Osteopaths will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of Northallerton Osteopaths to safeguarding adults and to ensure that everyone associated with Northallerton Osteopaths is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult within the organisation.

Scope

This safeguarding adult policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Northallerton Osteopaths including clinic directors, practitioners, associates, and support staff, and to all concerns about the safety of adults whilst using our services and in the wider community.

Commitments

To implement this policy Northallerton Osteopaths will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with Northallerton Osteopaths is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with Northallerton Osteopaths Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.
- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the adult actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to (see the Safeguarding Adults Procedures).
- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Data Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Northallerton Osteopaths will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard an adult.
- All clinic directors, practitioners, associates, and support staff understand their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults and have completed and are up to date with safeguarding adult training and learning opportunities appropriate for their role.
- Northallerton Osteopaths uses safe recruitment practices and continually assesses the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals in this organisation.
- Northallerton Osteopaths shares information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services.
- Actions taken under this policy are reviewed by the Clinical Directors and Practice Manager on an annual basis.

- This policy and the Safeguarding Adults Procedures are reviewed no less than on a two yearly basis and whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance.

Implementation

Northallerton Osteopaths is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures. In order to do so, the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for the safety and welfare of all adults.
- Access to relevant legal and professional advice.
- Safeguarding adult procedures that deal effectively with any concerns of abuse or neglect, including those caused through poor practice.
- A Safeguarding Lead.
- A process for forming a Case Management Group on a case by case basis within clear terms of reference.
- Arrangements to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, including arrangements for sharing information.
- Codes of conduct for clinic directors, practitioners, associates, and support staff that specify zero tolerance of abuse in any form.
- Risk assessments that specifically include safeguarding of adults.
- Policies and procedures that address the following areas and which are consistent with this Safeguarding Adults policy.

- ✓ Safeguarding Children
- ✓ Bullying and harassment
- ✓ Equality, diversity and inclusion
- ✓ Safe activities risk assessments
- ✓ Code of Conducts and a process for breach of these

- ✓ Discipline and grievance
- ✓ Concerns, Complaints and Compliments
- ✓ Whistleblowing
- ✓ Safe recruitment and selection
- ✓ Information policy, data protection and information sharing

Key Points

- There is a **legal duty on Local Authorities** to provide support to ‘adults at risk’.
- **Adults at risk** are defined in legislation and the criteria applied differs between each home nation.
- The safeguarding legislation applies **to all forms of abuse** that harm a person’s well-being.
- The law provides a framework for good practice in safeguarding that makes the overall **well-being** of the adult at risk a priority of any intervention.
- The law in all four home nations emphasises the importance of **person-centred safeguarding**, (referred to as **‘Making Safeguarding Personal’** in England).
- The law provides a framework for making decisions on behalf of adults who can’t make decisions for themselves (**Mental Capacity**).
- The law provides a framework for healthcare organisations to **share concerns** they have about adults at risk with the local authority.
- The law provides a framework for all organisations to **share information and cooperate** to protect adults at risk.