

UK Council for Psychotherapy- Safeguarding Protocol

Background

This protocol has been developed following extensive work and discussion by the UKCP Education, Training and Practice Committee, supported by UKCP staff and other UKCP committees.

It follows the scoping paper on safeguarding that was presented to the Board of Trustees in January 2015 and the subsequent draft guidance, which was the result of a workshop on safeguarding held in November 2015.

The protocol forms the framework for embedding safeguarding within everything UKCP does.

It sets out what is expected from psychotherapists, psychotherapeutic counsellors, supervisors, training organisations, as well as UKCP staff, in all matters relating to the safeguarding of children and adults. It also provides the context for safeguarding guidance already available elsewhere in the organisation.

The protocol is owned by the Board of Trustees.

The Protocol

The UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) recognises, and is committed to, the need for an organisation-wide and consistent approach to safeguarding in the best interests of clients and practitioners.

UKCP expects all those associated with the organisation to be aware of what applies to them when carrying out their duties in accordance with areas of safeguarding specific to their work.

Safeguarding encompasses:

- Preventing harm and abuse by demonstrating high standards of professional care
- Responding effectively to allegations of harm and abuse
- Working closely with other relevant agencies and their procedures
- Safe and responsible lone working
- Using learning to improve care for clients.

Therapists contribute significantly to the wellbeing of clients and safeguarding plays a vital role in defining that contribution. Appropriate confidentiality and boundaries around the therapeutic relationship, alongside mutual respect for skills and roles are essential elements of the therapeutic work.

As the leading regulatory body for the education and training of psychotherapists and psychotherapeutic counsellors, UKCP supports individual therapists to work with other agencies in the interests of safeguarding children and adults.

UKCP works to make individual therapists aware of the importance of their own responsibilities to safeguard themselves in both public and private practices.

What is Expected of UKCP Members

- All registered UKCP members are expected to be able to demonstrate that they are aware of the relevant statutory framework, which sets out safeguarding principles for their client group(s) – and be confident that they can act in accordance with these principles.
- UKCP requires registered members working in public and private settings to take responsibility for finding out, and working to the safeguarding principles and policies of the organisation.
- Supervisors have a responsibility to make sure that their knowledge is up-to-date, based on the relevant standards and statutory frameworks, on all matters relating to safeguarding.
- Clients and members of the public should be confident that UKCP, its registered members and training organisations meet the appropriate professional standards and will always endeavour to provide a safe, knowledgeable and accountable service.

What is Expected of UKCP and its Staff

- UKCP will update registered members on any changes to law relating to safeguarding, as and when necessary.
- UKCP will undertake to update information on safeguarding and the statutory requirements for its members and their clients as appropriate, in line with current legislation, through the UKCP website and other communications.
- Staff at UKCP should be able to signpost enquiries about safeguarding from registered members, training organisations and members of the public to the relevant individuals or bodies.