

# Safeguarding Policy

## Introduction

The Institute of Psychosexual Medicine (IPM) is a professional organisation, registered as a charity which provides education, training and research in psychosexual medicine. The Institute was founded in 1974 based on psychoanalytic principles introduced by Dr Michael Balint and Dr Tom Main. This has been developed by Institute Members offering specialist skills to doctors and allied health professionals.

IPM training includes case presentation of patients being seen by health professionals in their clinical practice.

## Safeguarding Statement

The IPM Council views protecting people and the charity's safeguarding responsibilities as an important governance matter. It is a fundamental part of operating as a charity for public benefit.

The IPM does not work directly with children or adults at risk but we do train health professionals working with people who may be at risk of harm.

The IPM does not have volunteers.

IPM staff may interact with UK organisations who work with people who are likely to be at risk of harm, but IPM staff do not come into direct contact with these people.

## Safeguarding procedures

IPM Council members (trustees) have a background in the NHS or health services and will have undertaken mandatory safeguarding training. Health professionals training with the IPM are usually working in the NHS and undertaking regular mandatory safeguarding training. They will be aware of how to identify safeguarding issues and the procedures they need to follow. The NHS Trusts they work for have safeguarding training, policies and procedures in place.

Any safeguarding concerns identified as a result of the work of the IPM charity should be raised with the Chair of IPM Council in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the Complaints Policy. The Chair of IPM Council will investigate the concern, involving other Council members if necessary, and decide what action needs to be taken.

## Training Seminar Groups

Safeguarding concerns that arise during the presentation of patient cases at seminar training will be discussed in the seminar group and the trainee will follow the procedures of the organisation that employs them, usually an NHS Trust.

## IPM Exams

Examiners are required to flag up any safeguarding issues identified during IPM exams and document these on the marking sheet.