



NHS HOUNSLOW COMMISSIONING AND PROVIDER SERVICES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN DECLARATION December 2009

Safeguarding children is one of the highest priorities for NHS Hounslow both as a commissioning and a provider organisation and we are therefore committed to ensuring that the risk of physical, sexual or emotional harm and neglect of all children is minimised.

As a result a number of safeguarding arrangements are in place.

These include:

NHS Hounslow meets statutory requirements in relation to Criminal Records Bureau checks – all staff employed by the organisation undergo a CRB check prior to employment and those working with children undergo an enhanced level of assessment.

All the PCT's child protection policies are up to date and robust and are reviewed on a regular basis, ultimately by the Board.
The last review occurred in September 2008 and the next review is scheduled for 2010.

The PCT has assured itself that it has a process in place for following up children who miss outpatient appointments within any speciality to ensure their care and ultimately their health is not affected in any way.
In addition PCT Provider Services have a system in place for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns.

The majority of eligible staff have undertaken safeguarding training and this is regularly reviewed to ensure it is up to date.
The PCT has a robust training strategy in place with regard to delivering safeguarding training.

PCT Commissioning : safeguarding children training

75% of eligible staff in contact with a health care setting are up to date with level 1 training.

100% of eligible clinical staff are up to date with level 2 training.

100% of eligible clinical staff who work primarily with children are up to date with level 3 training.



PCT Provider Services : safeguarding children training

82% of eligible staff in contact with a health care setting are up to date with level 1 training.

22% of eligible clinical staff are up to date with level 2 training.

NB. This percentage relates only to staff who have attended level 2 training since September 2009 when the content of the awareness training was reviewed and upgraded to assure quality and compliance.

44% of eligible clinical staff who work primarily with children are up to date with level 3 training.

Plans are in place to maintain and improve on the percentages of staff trained to appropriate levels in 2010. There are staff who have undertaken training but not at the appropriate level for their job role and this will be addressed. The last training review occurred in November 2009 and training will be reviewed again in June 2010.

The PCT has designated and named professionals in post who lead on issues in relation to safeguarding. They are clear about their roles, have sufficient time and receive relevant support and training, to undertake their roles, which includes close contact with other social and health care organisations. The total number of professionals in these roles is five and these are broken down by discipline as follows.

Designated Doctor	0.2 WTE
Designated Nurse	1.0 WTE
Named Doctor/GP	0.2 WTE
Named Nurses	2.0 WTE
Administration support	0.6 WTE

The Director of Commissioning Primary & Community Care is the Executive Lead for the PCT Board for safeguarding children and represents the PCT on the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). She chairs the LSCB Quality sub group and reports to the Board on all safeguarding children matters.

The Director of Quality and Integrated Governance / Clinical Director is the Executive Lead for safeguarding children for the provider arm of the PCT and



chairs the Joint Safeguarding Committee which reports on safeguarding children matters to the Joint Provider Board, a sub-committee of the PCT Board.

The PCT Board takes the issue of safeguarding children extremely seriously and receives an annual report on safeguarding children issues as well as additional reporting throughout the year by the Executive Director lead and the Designated professionals.

The last annual report occurred in November 2009 and the Board paper relating to this can be found on the PCT website.

The Trust Board has robust audit programmes to assure it that safeguarding systems and processes are working.

The PCT has robust and appropriate performance monitoring systems in place with all providers, including the independent sector, in relation to safeguarding children. All contracts and Service Level Agreements contain specific reference to safeguarding children.

Safeguarding children standards have been developed for use with each provider and work will continue during 2010 to embed in contracts and monitoring systems to increase the effectiveness of performance monitoring systems across the health economy.

The outcomes from monitoring systems are reported to the PCT Board Committee for Quality, Safety and Patient Experience which provides Board assurance.

The PCT has ensured that GP practices and staff have robust systems and practices in place to ensure they can fulfil their role in safeguarding children. The implementation of the standards mentioned above will strengthen these systems.

Currently the PCT has training and performance monitoring systems in place for general practice and community pharmacists through practice visits.

A self-assessment declaration process is also in place for general practice which will be strengthened during 2010/11.

Child protection training for dental practices is in place and performance monitoring through practice visits will commence early in 2010.

Child protection training for community optometrists will commence in 2010.

The PCT has scrutinised the declarations of providers from whom they commission services and also monitor their compliance with Core Standard 2.

All issues related to safeguarding children are discussed with the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board at least every four months.



NHS Hounslow was recently part of an integrated OFSTED / Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services which achieved an overall OFSTED rating of 'GOOD'.

We reiterate that NHS Hounslow is committed to ensuring that children are protected and that we follow the national and local child protection guidance.