



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE

October 2010 Update

Section 11 of the Children Act (2004) places a duty on every NHS Trust to have arrangements in place to ensure that the organisation and all staff working within it have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Following the death of Baby P, the Care Quality Commission undertook a national review of safeguarding children within the NHS and in July 2009 the NHS Chief Executive, David Nicholson, requested that all Trust Boards review their statutory obligations regarding Safeguarding Children and formally publish their compliance.

In July 2009 Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust undertook a comprehensive internal review of compliance against the standards laid out by The Care Quality Commission for Safeguarding Children, the findings were presented to the Trust Board in September 2009. The Board acknowledged that gaps that had been identified from the review and undertook a journey of recovery with delivery of an action plan that was completed in March 2010.

Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust declares the following:

The organisation meets statutory requirements in relation to CRB checks

The Trust is a registered body with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and adheres to the CRB Code of Practice established under Section 122 of Part V Police Act 1997. As such the Trust is required to demonstrate compliance with the statutory duties set out in the Code including the demonstration of appropriate verification procedures when checking the identity of Disclosure applicants and the correct management of sensitive and personal data within Disclosures. The Trust has a formal policy specifically relating to CRB Disclosures which sets out the responsibilities of the Director of Human Resources, appointing Managers and current and prospective employees.

Child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust

The Safeguarding Policy for Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust was revised in January 2010 and ratified by the Safeguarding Committee. The policy includes guidance as to the trigger promoting referral to the Children and Young People's service and the requirements for a child whom currently has a Child Protection Plan. In addition, the process to follow up children who miss outpatient appointments is being reviewed. The Trust has developed an internal electronic flagging system for children with whom there are safeguarding concerns.

The Trust policies and operational procedures for safeguarding the welfare of children are available via the internet. These are based on guidance from "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006), (2010)." Staff are further guided to inter agency practice, via policies and procedures from the Local Children's Safeguarding Boards of Birmingham, Solihull and South Staffordshire.

All eligible staff have undertaken and are up to date with Safeguarding training at Level 1

Safeguarding Children's training has been a priority for the Trust during 2010. All staff received an updated safeguarding leaflet in the January 2010 payslip. In addition, a face to face training session has been rolled out with drop in sessions for staff. Level 1 training is part of all mandatory and corporate training programmes. Level 2 training for relevant staff is in place with a focused roll out programme. Level 3 training is accessed via the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

In accordance with the Children Act 2004 named professionals are clear about their role and have sufficient time and support to undertake it

The Trust has in post:

- Named Doctor
- A Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children (incorporated in a new role of Nurse Consultant for Safeguarding Children and an Associate Nurse for Safeguarding Children
- Two Named Midwives
- 4 Specialist Midwives for substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, domestic abuse and mental health

In September 2009, the Trust appointed a new Head Nurse for Children's Services with a remit as lead for Safeguarding Children.

There is a Board level Executive Director lead for Safeguarding. The Board review Safeguarding across the organisation and has robust programmes to ensure that Safeguarding systems and processes are working

The Chief Nurse is the Executive lead for Safeguarding Children within the Trust. The responsibility for gaining assurance in relation to Safeguarding Children is through the Safeguarding Committee which is chaired by the Chief Nurse.

The effectiveness of the Trust Safeguarding Children Policies is monitored via a number of different routes including:

- Audit group: the group has a rolling programme of audit that reports to the Safeguarding Committee on a quarterly basis.
- A continuous review of records by the Paediatric Liaison Nurse and Health Visitors who attend A & E to identify those where there may be child protection concerns.
- The monitoring of our standards of safeguarding arrangements is on a quarterly basis through the Governance and Risk Committee chaired by the Director of Governance.
- The Trust produces an annual safeguarding report which is approved by the Board of Directors