

Safeguarding Children - Trust Declaration

The board is assured that the requirements in relation to safeguarding children are being followed. In particular:

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 regarding the correct handling, verification, use, storage, retention and disposal of disclosures and disclosure information.

The Trust participates in assurance audits/visits undertaken by the CRB. In addition the Trust's recruitment processes, including CRB are subject to internal audit scrutiny through the internal audit programme. The Trust has a CRB disclosure protocol which sets out the responsibilities of the lead countersignatures for the Trust, this protocol is supported by CRB guidance.

Child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust, including a process for following up children who miss outpatient appointments and a system for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns.

The Trust has in place a range of child protection procedures, which are regularly reviewed and updated (minimum every 2 years). All Trust policies relating to safeguarding are also ratified by the local Safeguarding Children's Board. (LSCB) The Trust also works within the LSCB policies and procedures. All policies and procedures are available via the safeguarding children intranet site which was launched September 2009.

The Safeguarding Children and Young people Policy clearly identifies that following Did Not Attend (DNA) and No Access Visits (NAV) there is a responsibility for an assessment of risk and that Trust staff must consider the impact on a child (born or unborn) or young person if either they themselves or a parent/carer or close relative does not engage with services and whether there is any intervention required in order to secure the child's welfare. United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust is currently implementing an electronic alert system for flagging safeguarding concerns. The safeguarding children and young people policy is supported by a referral pathway for concerns which is available to all staff.

All eligible staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training at level 1. The new e-learning package on the e learning for healthcare system and the National Learning Management (ESR) system offers an additional resource to support this. In addition, a review of other training arrangements should be completed within 6 months, taking account of emerging messages from the national review of safeguarding training.

The safeguarding children and young people policy states that all new staff members will complete the safeguarding children e-learning module provided by the Trust within one month of commencing employment with the organisation. Staff training levels are detailed in the training matrix and are dictated by the extent to which they work with children and families, in line with the competencies identified within the intercollegiate document (1).

Following a review of current training provision, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust will be adopting the NHS Core Learning Unit e-learning package for

safeguarding children as part of the mandatory training programme. This package will be linked to electronic staff records to ensure data collection of safeguarding children training. In house level 2 training is available to staff. Further level 2 and level 3 training is accessible via the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Designated and/or named professionals are clear about their role and have sufficient time and support to undertake it.

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust employs:

- Named doctor, with dedicated time in job plan,
- Deputy Chief Nurse / Safeguarding Liaison Officer – part time dedicated post
- Full-time named nurse post dedicated to safeguarding children
- Named midwife.

Job descriptions and competency frameworks are currently being strengthened in line with the national agenda.

There is a board level executive director lead for safeguarding, the board review safeguarding across the organisation at least once a year and has robust audit programmes to assure it that safeguarding systems and processes are working.

The executive lead for safeguarding within the Trust is the Chief Nurse. The Chief Nurse has completed a formal leadership programme for safeguarding children. The Trust has participated in independent audits of its compliance with safeguarding standards including a review of markers of best practice and an assessment of compliance against section 11 of the Children Act. The outcomes of these assessments and any remedial action plans to improve compliance have been considered by the Trust Board.

In addition, the Chief Nurse is the chair of a Trust Wide Children and Young People's Committee, which is a sub committee of the Trust Integrated Governance Committee. Safeguarding issues including actions arising from Serious Case Reviews are monitored by this committee. United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust 'Sharing the Lessons Learned forum' reports on safeguarding incidents and makes recommendations following investigation.

Sylvia Knight
Chief Nurse
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

References

Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competences for Health Care Staff - Intercollegiate Document (RCPCH 2006)