

## Safeguarding Children and Young People: Compliance Declaration

In July 2009, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published a report on their review of arrangements in the NHS for safeguarding children. In line with this Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has considered its own processes, procedures and policies in regards to safeguarding children and has worked with its partners to respond to initiatives and reviews at both national and local levels.

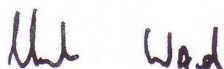
The Trust Board takes this issue seriously and models the behaviours necessary to drive consistent and positive improvement to services and safeguarding for children. The Trust Board have assured themselves that best practice and statutory requirements are followed in relation to safeguarding children, and can confirm that:

- The Trust meets the statutory requirements in relation to Criminal Records;
- **Child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust, including a process for following up children who miss out-patient appointments and a system for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns:** There are Safeguarding Children policies, guidelines and systems in operation within the Trust and these are accessible via the staff intranet and in hard copy within key areas. The Trust also operates a rigorous pathway of identifying when a policy requires updating and this is implemented accordingly. The Trust has a system in place to assist in the identification of children for whom there are safeguarding concerns and a 'traffic light system' has been developed for use within the Emergency Department. PHT have a well established system for flagging expectant mothers where there are safeguarding concerns. Additionally, discussion is taking place to develop a system to monitor and respond to children not brought to appointments and to develop a framework for provision of letters to parents/child following their appointment. Our partners have recently been provided with nhs.net access to allow for updates to be received securely and actioned daily;
- **All eligible staff have undertaken safeguarding training at Level 1. This should also include a review of additional safeguarding training which is conducted and/or promoted by the Trust.** PHT has completed a Training Needs Analysis and a new Safeguarding Children Training Strategy has been developed as a result. This reflects the additional needs of staff within frontline services. Consideration is given to the different roles, responsibilities and requirements for staff; in relation to Safeguarding Children and training is adapted accordingly. Level 1 Safeguarding training is now included on all Corporate Induction and in staff Essential Training sessions. E-Learning, E-MOT and a Safeguarding Children DVD is available. The majority of frontline staff (including Paediatrics/ ED and Maternity) have attended level 2/3 training (required annually) to meet their development needs related to their specific clinical areas. Where appropriate and required, key staff are also offered further specialised training of relevance to the children and families they care for. As part of the successful business case presented in December last year it is intended that a Safeguarding Children trainer will be appointed in January 2010. The appointment of this key role will increase staff skills and knowledge in Safeguarding Children and will further support the Trust in its declaration to the CQC in 2010;

- **Designated and/or named professionals are clear about their roles and have sufficient time and support to undertake them:** The named professionals have clarity regarding their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. They have regular communication with divisional leads and members of the Executive team, ensuring that consideration is given to any competing priorities and these are addressed accordingly. However, it has been recognised that the team has been of an insufficient size and a successful business case has been approved to proceed to increase the size of the team.
- **There is a Board-level Executive Director with specific responsibility for Safeguarding Children. This should also include accountability for ensuring the trust employs robust audit processes; to ensure the safeguarding practices are efficient and effective:** Within PHT the overall children's agenda is championed by the Trust's Chief Executive. The Director responsible for Safeguarding Children is the Director of Clinical Standards/ Medical Director. The Trust has undertaken a rigorous review of its performance and governance arrangements for Safeguarding Children and young people. The Safeguarding Children agenda is progressed locally through the Paediatric Standard and Quality Committee (PSQC) which is chaired by the Chief Executive. This key committee ensures the robust flow of information, discussion of and changes to policy and practice and effective communication between the Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Safeguarding Children is monitored via our Clinical Governance and Risk Committees and is reported to the Board bi annually.

The Board is making a declaration that they are satisfied that these arrangements are in place.

Signed on behalf of the Board



**Chief Executive**

**Trust Executive Lead for Safeguarding**