

Safeguarding Children Declaration
July 2011.

1. **Background**

In July 2010 the Trust published a declaration about how the Board assures themselves that safeguarding arrangements are in place. The Trust Board continues to take its safeguarding children responsibilities very seriously. NHS London has requested an update on activity since the declaration.

2. **Update on Safeguarding Children Improvement Teams (SITs) Action Plan.**

Since February 2010, Safeguarding Children Improvement Teams (SITs) have conducted peer reviews across the boroughs of Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond hosted by the Primary Care Trusts (PCT). The Trust was commended for commissioning its own external review of safeguarding by the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS). It was noted that the Trust had a strong commitment to safeguarding and risk was managed well, particularly within CAMHS. Good supervision, incorporating child protection was also noted.

Through the action plans the trust has:

- Recruited a Social Worker for the adolescent inpatient unit. This has improved liaison and information sharing with local safeguarding in the boroughs and strengthened the links with the trust named professionals.
- Appointed to the vacant self harm and paediatric liaison post in Kingston through the recruitment of a specialist nurse.
- Focused on developing robust systems to ensure that the details of dependent children of adults using trust services are routinely and consistently recorded.

The recommendations are being discussed and monitored by the Safeguarding Children and Adults Working Group

3. **Safeguarding Events**

• **Learning Lessons from Serious Case Reviews**

In February 2011, the Trust hosted a successful multi agency event to share learning from a recent Serious Case Review involving one of the boroughs. This event highlighted specific issues for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, particularly in relation to alcohol and substance misuse and the themes from the *Hidden Harm* document.

This event and a number of Root Cause Analysis investigations also highlighted the key role of all trust staff in assessing and recognising childhood vulnerability when working with vulnerable adults. The feedback from attendees was positive and future sessions are planned as national and local serious case reviews are published.

• **Domestic Violence**

During 2011, the Director of Social Work for the trust has led on the development of a training package for domestic violence.

• **Think Family.**

From March 2011 the trust employed a Safeguarding Adults lead professional who has worked closely with the Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children who was appointed in February 2011 following the retirement of the previous incumbent.

The potholders are planning a Think Family week for October 2011. The aim is to raise the awareness of staff, patients and relatives about the role of the family in mental health and highlighting the vulnerability that family systems often have to manage and the support and resilience that the family can provide.

4. Safeguarding Children Training

Following the publication of the Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competences for health care staff Intercollegiate document (September 2010) a review of the training programmes provided by the Trust has been undertaken to ensure the information provided is up-to-date and comprehensive. The trust is developing a Level 4 training aimed at the trust Professional and borough Leads. This aims to provide 2 half days and augments the individual supervision offered to these staff. All staff in the trust have access to a range of training sessions and workshops organised by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in each of the 5 local boroughs. Trust staff also contribute to the delivery of a number of courses across the LSCB's. Staff have also taken up e-learning training offered by Merton LSCB.

Safeguarding is also incorporated into the Trusts Risk Assessment Training and Education Programme (RATE) and the Lead Nurse for Safeguarding children is an integral member of the trust Serious Incident Governance Group to ensure that Safeguarding children is embedded in the process.

5. Trust contribution with LSCB's.

The trust is represented at all levels within the 5 local LSCB's that it covers. LSCB board meetings are attended by borough executives and there is a widespread representation at the various sub committees.

The trust has also contributed 4 Independent Management Reports across the boroughs and is supporting the SCIE approach in one of the boroughs.

5. Safeguarding Children Policy

The Trusts Safeguarding Children Policy was commented by HASCAS as "comprehensive and competent extant policy document that meets the required standard". A review of the policy was postponed until after the publication of the revised 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' document circulated in March 2010. This review has now been completed and is due to be ratified by the trust board.

6. Corporate Clinical Audit Programme

A safeguarding children audit was planned for the corporate audit programme 2011-12; however, due to the importance placed on this by Trust stakeholders, it will be included as a Trust priority in the Quality Account and monitored on a quarterly basis.

7. Safeguarding Children Annual Report

A comprehensive Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2010/11 will be presented to the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Working Group and Trust Board in September 2011.