

CHILD PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2003 - NOVEMBER 2005

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1. INTRODUCTION

Child Protection is everyone's responsibility and as such the Child Protection profile within the Trust has been raised significantly in the time period covered by this report. The catalyst for the rise of Child Protection on West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust's agenda, as within all other agencies involved in safeguarding children, was the publication of the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report in January 2003.

2. CHILD PROTECTION LEADS WITHIN THE TRUST

The professionals within the Trust responsible for Child Protection are the 'Named Professionals' in accordance with Department of Health Guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 1999. These include the Named Doctors, Named Nurse and Named Midwife. Currently, the Named Doctor holds the position as an 'add on role', whereas the Named Nurse and Midwife are substantive roles.

The role of the Named Midwife was until recently part of the Midwifery Modern Matron role. A full time Named Midwife has now been appointed. The Named Nurse position is currently vacant however, the Head of Practice Development is temporarily overseeing the workload supported by the Executive Lead for Child Protection, the Director of Nursing, Midwifery, Quality and Risk. A Lecturer, Practitioner/Named Nurse post was advertised in November 2004 and will be a joint appointment with the University of Hertfordshire.

Within their roles and working together across the Trust's four sites, the Named Professionals are responsible for safeguarding children by ensuring:

- ◆ Child Protection arrangements are in place and understood by all relevant staff
- ◆ Child Protection awareness training for staff occurs
- ◆ All staff are aware of the roles of the Named Professionals, such as offering advice, guidance and support in all Child Protection matters

The Trust's Named Professionals are offered support and professional guidance from West Hertfordshire's Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor.

As West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust (WHHT) is a large and complex organisation with approximately 4,500 staff, the Named Professionals are assisted in their roles by ***Divisional Child Protection Leads***, which have been designated in areas that children are seen across the Trust:

- ◆ Accident & Emergency Departments
- ◆ Minor Injury Departments
- ◆ Day Surgery
- ◆ Outpatients
- ◆ Maternity and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)
- ◆ GUM Clinics
- ◆ Rainbow Ward and the Burns Unit at Mt Vernon Hospital

This group consists of 16 members who are all senior nursing/midwifery staff; the group is co-ordinated by the Named Nurse and meets quarterly.

Their role is:

- ◆ To offer advice, support and guidance to their colleagues in collaboration with the Named Professionals
- ◆ To act as resource on Child Protection issues in their work areas
- ◆ To ensure procedures and documentation related to Child Protection are updated and accessible to staff
- ◆ Assist in the implementation of recommendations or practice changes made by the Child Protection Hospital Steering Group as disseminated by the Named Nurse

3. CHILD PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS MEETINGS

Across Hertfordshire and West Hertfordshire there are many opportunities for the named professionals to meet with their counterparts from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), Acute Trusts, and other agencies involved in safeguarding children in order to discuss issues and promote best practice in safeguarding children and facilitate working together. These established groups, to which all of the Trust's Named Professionals are invited, are:

- ◆ South Quadrant Area Monitoring Group (AMG)
- ◆ West Quadrant Area Monitoring Groups (AMGs are sub groups of the Area Child Protection Committee ACPC)
- ◆ West Hertfordshire Health Child Protection Group
- ◆ Hertfordshire Named Nurse Group
- ◆ West Hertfordshire Child Protection Training Implementation Group

The majority of these groups meet quarterly, and whereas three of these groups are for health personnel only, the area monitoring groups have representation from the other agencies that are involved in safeguarding children, namely Social Services, Education, Local Authorities and Police.

3.1 Hospital Child Protection Steering Group

Within the Trust, a Hospital Child Protection Steering Group has recently been established and is chaired by the Director of Nursing, Midwifery, Quality & Risk. The Group's Terms of Reference are attached in *Appendix 1*. The group has a multi agency membership, meets quarterly, and facilitates working together in safeguarding children across the Trust. The group discusses national and local reports and the implications of these on Child Protection practice across the Trust and reviews recommendations and devises action plans as appropriate.

4. CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

Following his report on the Victoria Climbié Inquiry (2003), Lord Laming made many recommendations which were used by the ***Commission for Health Improvement (CHI)***, to prepare the self audit tool which they asked NHS Trusts to use in order to assess their own Child Protection arrangements. WHHT completed this audit in April 2003 and identified 3 key target areas in which actions, when taken, would improve arrangements across the Trust.

These actions have been actively progressed by the Named Nurse and more recently the Head of Practice Development.

Child Protection Procedures followed by staff across the Trust are the '***Hertfordshire Area Child Protection Procedures***' written by the Hertfordshire Area Child Protection Committee

(ACPC) and are to be found in all areas within the Trust that children attend. These procedures will shortly be available via the hospital intranet for staff to access.

Child Protection practice and training are also guided by action plans drawn up from recommendations made by the ACPC following serious case reviews carried out across Hertfordshire. In January 2004, the ACPC produced a Summary of **recommendations from reviews** carried out in Hertfordshire from 2002-2003; the relevant recommendations from this summary have been used to draw up a detailed action plan.

A further action plan was drawn up in June 2003 from the recommendations made by Lord Laming in the national report on the Victoria Climbié Inquiry. This has become the **Climbié Local Action Plan**, (refer to Appendix 2) and as such is used by the Trust to guide Child Protection practice, policy and training. This plan is reviewed and updated quarterly by the Named Nurse and the Director of Nursing and disseminated across the Trust.

The separate action plans in use around child protection have been amalgamated and used in conjunction with the 'Draft Standard on Child Protection' found in the 'National Service Framework for Children-Standard for Hospital Services' to make one action plan, used to guide practice, implement changes and direct training across WHHT.

5. WEST HERTFORDSHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST ~ TRAINING STRATEGY

Although WHHT does not manage acute children's services, many children do access our services through:

- ◆ Accident & Emergency and Minor Injury Departments
- ◆ Maternity and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)
- ◆ Burns Unit and Rainbow Ward at Mount Vernon Hospital
- ◆ Day Surgery Unit at WGH
- ◆ Out Patients Departments
- ◆ GUM clinics

With children accessing all of these areas Child Protection awareness training is important for all staff working within these environments.

Child Protection training across Hertfordshire is limited and consists of 24 places a year at level 2 on a multi-agency training course run by the Area Child Protection Committee. The 24 places are for all health personnel across West Hertfordshire, Acute and Primary Care Trusts, and as such, only 4 will be available for this Trust. The local PCT Named Nurses have also been offering level 1 training 8-10 times a year; this is a 1-day course and is offered to all health staff across West Hertfordshire.

Staff at Mount Vernon work under the Hillingdon Child Protection Procedures; patients attend from Hillingdon, and therefore have access to training given by Hillingdon ACPC. This is more readily available and is a 2-day multi agency course held 4-5 times a year.

Within the Hertfordshire Child Protection Training Strategy written by the Designated Nurses for Hertfordshire, basic awareness training on Child Protection has now become the responsibility of each Trust to arrange for their staff.

Following an audit carried out by the Named Nurse into Child Protection training received by staff in WHHT, it was identified that training received was limited and had occurred in small pockets. Consequently, a robust and comprehensive Child Protection Training Strategy 2004-2005 has been developed and is attached in Appendix 3.

In acute hospital settings, reaching staff in many areas or staff being freed up to attend training sessions can be problematic, therefore training sessions in many areas have occurred on Clinical Governance days. Other high-risk areas targeted specifically were A&E Departments and Maternity Services, in particular the Community Midwives. The Child Protection Leads were instrumental in arranging these sessions, as were Divisional Practice Development Nurses.

A rolling programme for midwives has commenced and will continue monthly throughout the year, facilitated by the Named Midwife.

To date over 400 staff across the Trust received basic Child Protection Awareness training, with staff in targeted areas receiving more specific training related to their work areas.

A revised training schedule has been developed, utilising the services of an external consultant, to ensure remaining Trust staff receive basic child protection awareness training. These study sessions are scheduled to begin in December 2004.

5.1 Named Professionals Training

The Named Professionals also have access to Child Protection training opportunities. The training is arranged by the Designated Nurses and is given at Level 3 or 'Working together on particular practice' as dictated in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (1999), funded by money from the Workforce Development Confederation.

Sessions attended include:

- ◆ Sexual Abuse
- ◆ Neglect and Emotional Abuse
- ◆ Child Protection Supervision

6. CHILD PROTECTION ACTIVITY

6.1 Referrals

All paediatric **referrals to social services** in Hertfordshire are now made on a universal health referral form that is faxed directly to the Social Services Client Services Desk. This form has been distributed to all Divisional Child Protection Leads and is available in all areas that children attend within the Trust. A copy of each referral is also sent to the Named Nurse/Named Midwife. Approximately 40-50 referrals are made monthly across the Trust on children and unborn babies with Child Protection or Child/Family in Need concerns.

6.2 Child Protection Conferences

The Named Midwife is invited to, and attends, **Child Protection Conferences** on unborn babies when the expectant mother is accessing maternity services within the Trust. Following the conference, if the unborn baby is entered on the Child Protection Register and a Child Protection Plan is made, the Named Midwife will enter relevant details into a folder on Delivery Suites informing staff of relevant contact details and protection plans following the birth of the baby. Copies of this information are also sent to the Child Protection Lead on SCBU.

6.3 Serious Case Reviews

Serious Case Reviews are requested by the Area Child Protection Committee and performed when a child dies, receives a serious injury, abuse is suspected or there has been multi-agency

involvement with the family; the Named Nurse normally carries out these reviews. Within the time frame of this report one **Serious Case Review has been** carried out in WHHT by the Designated Nurse for West Hertfordshire with assistance from the Named Midwife and Named Nurse. Currently there are no recommendations from this review as it still remains with the ACPC.

6.3 Child Protection Register

In each A&E Department in the Trust and both Minor Injury Units, there is a copy of the Hertfordshire **Child Protection Register**. Currently, each child that attends the Emergency Departments is checked against this register.

If a child attending the departments is found to be on the register, even when there are no concerns with the presentation around child protection, a referral form is completed and faxed to Children, Schools and Families to advise them of the child's attendance at the department for their records.

The Divisional Child Protection Leads in the emergency departments are responsible for updating the register weekly as new names are added or removed, and destroying the old Register when new updated copies arrive each month.

Negotiations are currently underway with the Named Nurse for Hillingdon Hospital and the custodian of the Hillingdon register, for a copy of the Hillingdon Child Protection register to be kept in MIU at Mount Vernon, as many children attending for treatment are from Hillingdon and would not be on the Hertfordshire Child Protection Register.

6.4 Audit

An ongoing system of regular audit and review of assessment documentation for all children presenting at A&E or MIU within the Trust was established by the Named Nurse as part of the Climbié Local Action Plan.

The monthly audit identifies any missing data and results are shared with Divisional Leads for cascade within the departments, to improve practice.

7. FUTURE CHILD PROTECTION DEVELOPMENTS

A number of developments are planned for 2004/05, which includes:

- ◆ Appointment to the vacant Lecturer Practitioner/Named Nurse post
- ◆ Evaluation of new training provision
- ◆ A further audit using new CHI self audit tool
- ◆ Hillingdon Child Protection Register to be 'set up' in the Minor Injury Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital
- ◆ Pilot of A&E Child Protection meetings
- ◆ Audits of paediatric notes/documentation in use across the Trust in relation to recommendations made by Lord Laming
- ◆ Audit of referrals made to CSF
- ◆ Progression of the NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services by the Named Nurse and Named Midwife

8. CONCLUSION

In the last twelve months the Child Protection profile within the Trust has been raised significantly.

This raised profile for Child Protection across the Trust should ensure that children in need of support and/or safeguarding from possible abuse or neglect are recognised, referred appropriately and protected from harm.

Gary Etheridge
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