

TRUST BOARD MEETING - 21ST AUGUST 2008

Title of the Paper:	Safeguarding Children Progress Report
Agenda item:	131/08
Author:	Gary Etheridge, Director of Nursing
Trust Objective:	Strategic Objective 2 Improved Rating with Annual Health Check (Standards for Better Health Core Standard 2 - Healthcare Organisations protect children by following National Child Protection Guidelines within their own Activities and in their dealings with other organisations).
Purpose The report provides the Trust Board with an update on the recent progress of delivering the Safeguarding Children Agenda within the Trust.	
Risk Implications for the Trust Failure to safeguard children attending the Trust will put children at risk.	Mitigating Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Policies and Procedures• Representation on the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Strategic Board and Sub Groups• Trust wide Training on Safeguarding Children• Quarterly Safeguarding Children's Audits• Daily review of all acute admissions to the Trust• Weekly Psychosocial Ward Rounds and Multi agency meetings
Level of Assurance that can be given to the Trust Board from the report Significant	
Links to Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE 1 - 5) N/A	
Recommendation to the Trust Board: Trust Board members are asked to note the contents of this progress report and the Safeguarding Children Annual Report - 2007/08. Both provide assurance that children in need of support and/or safeguarding are recognised, referred and protected.	

Public Board Meeting, 21st August 2008

Safeguarding Children Progress Report

Presented by: Gary Etheridge, Director of Nursing

1. Purpose

Safeguarding Children from abuse is the responsibility of everyone working within the Trust. This report outlines progress made by the Safeguarding Team in progressing the agenda locally and identifies the key priorities for the service.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Climbié Report in 2003 and the publication of Standards for Better Health provide the Trust with detailed guidance on how to progress and maintain the local Safeguarding Children agenda.
- 2.2 Since 2005 the Trust has had an established Safeguarding Team in place, who are focused on working to ensure that a high standard of care is achieved for all children who access our services.
- 2.3 The Professionals within the Trust responsible for Safeguarding Children are the Named Professionals, in accordance with the Department of Health Guidelines 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. In post are a Named Doctor, Named Nurse, Named Midwife (awaiting Appointment) and Child Protection Nurse Advisors. The Named Doctor has two sessions a month (currently under review) to concentrate on his Safeguarding Role and the Team are offered support and Guidance from the West Hertfordshire Designated Doctor and Nurse.
- 2.4 In addition to the named professionals each Clinical Division has identified a Child Protection Lead who is responsible for progressing the Safeguarding Children agenda at a local level. The Divisional Leads meet with the Named Nurse quarterly to discuss issues around Safeguarding Children within their areas of work and assist in organizing training and updating staff with relevant issues. They attend Trust training sessions and are offered additional training from the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board, to enable them to develop their role, especially those personnel who work in front line areas e.g. A&E, Children's Emergency Department, Children's Wards and Outpatients Departments.

3. Progress to Date

- 3.1 Within the Trust, the Safeguarding Children agenda is progressed locally through the Hospital Safeguarding Children Steering Group, chaired by the Director of Nursing, and Divisional Safeguarding Children Leads Group. Regular liaison between A&E and the Team is recognized as vital and twice-monthly meetings to review cases and discuss referrals occur with the presence of Multi-agency Teams.

The Safeguarding Children Team aim to ensure that inter-agency relationship working is efficient and continues throughout the process of Safeguarding Children. Multi agency working was identified in the Laming Enquiry as essential to effectively protect children.

The Named Professionals within the Trust meet with their counterparts from Primary Care Trusts, neighbouring Acute Trusts and other agencies, e.g. Police, Social Care Organisations and Drug and Alcohol agencies, to discuss issues, promote good practice and facilitate effective multi-agency working.

- 3.2 The Trust follows the HSCB Child Protection procedures, which have been distributed Trust wide in hardback and handbook size to all frontline practitioners.
- 3.3 Hertfordshire Social Services (Children, Schools Families) was working under the supervision of Children First, an external support agency commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council, following the unsatisfactory outcome of a recent Joint Area Review by the Health Care Commission. The final report of the Children First External Support Team has been submitted to the DCSF and the team has now withdrawn from Hertfordshire. The key achievements listed in the report include:
- A CSF leadership more focused on performance management
 - Safe staffing processes are in place and working
 - The practice and structures of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) show evidence of an improved working style, clearer accountability and leadership.
- 3.4 The HSCB is also presently being restructured and reviewed as a result of the unsatisfactory outcome of the recent Joint Area Review. The Named Nurse and Midwife have had representation on sub groups and are currently joining Sub Groups within the reconfiguration.
- 3.5 The Trust also maintains the recommendations made by Lord Laming in 2003 and Serious Case Reviews via a Safeguarding Children's Action Plan. The plan is maintained and audited by the Named Nurse and Safeguarding Children's Team. Results of the biannual review are disseminated throughout the organization.
- 3.6 A Training Needs Analysis and Safeguarding Children Training Strategy have been developed in response to the educational and developmental needs of all staff within the Trust, and reflect the additional needs of staff within frontline services. Sessions are now included on all Corporate Induction and all Staff Mandatory Training sessions. Since July 2006 over 2,000 staff have received Stage I Basic Awareness Training. All frontline and Paediatric staff have been offered and attended further Stage I and Stage II training to meet their development needs related to their work areas. The Named Nurse has also conducted training with Medirest Personnel and other Trust Personnel that do not have direct patient contact but need a basic awareness.
- Staff are also offered further specialised training via Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board up to Stage III, that includes multi-agency training and comprehensive sessions on relevant issues to named professionals. Joint training with Doctors and Nurses continues within the Trust, with Midwives being offered Mandatory Training both at induction and yearly sessions.
- 3.7 Work actively progressed by the Safeguarding Children's Team during the last six months includes:
- Attendance at regular multi-agency meetings
 - Review of all referrals to children's social care
 - Daily review of acute attendances to the Trust

- Continued close working with Liaison Health Visitors and all staff, providing support and advice where needed and acting as co-ordinators for all Safeguarding Children cases within the Trust
- Review of recommendations from previous Serious Case Reviews. Action plans developed to deliver the Review's Recommendations are reviewed and updated twice yearly and presented at the Trust's Safeguarding Children's Steering Group
- Maintenance of the Child Protection Register (CPR) in the frontline areas of the Trust, with every child attending the Trust being checked against the Register
- West Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Guidelines have been written by the Named Nurse and are awaiting ratification by the Policies, Procedures and Guidelines Committee

- 3.8 Regular Safeguarding Children audits are carried out in A&E, Day Surgery, SCBU, Maternity and Outpatients and are discussed at the Trust's Hospital Safeguarding Children's Steering Group. The Named Nurse and Doctor carried out an audit of referrals to Children's Schools and Families in early 2008. The results were reviewed jointly by the Trust and CSF.

The Safeguarding Children's Team audits the Child Protection Register (CPR) every quarter and the results are disseminated to staff. It is likely that during 2008 the CPR will change its title and become a 'Child with a Protection Plan in Place' and be available electronically, but this is still under discussion with Children's Schools and Families and the Safeguarding Children's Team.

- 3.9 As well as maintaining the current agenda for Safeguarding Children the following developments are planned for late 2008:

- The introduction of a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for use in Hertfordshire. This is a process for undertaking a common assessment on a child who is in need of services to support him/her and families
- West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust Guidelines for Safeguarding have been written by the Named Nurse. They are awaiting ratification by the Policy, Procedure and Guidelines Group.
- Completion of a Care Pathway for Safeguarding Children, in collaboration with PCT colleagues
- Increased multi-agency working with CSF, agreeing referral thresholds with a regular review of referrals. The trust now has a dedicated Member of CSF attending meetings and reviewing cases

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 This progress report clearly demonstrates how the Trust is continuing its work in partnership with member agencies to provide protection and care to all vulnerable children that access our services or receive care provided by the Trust.
- 4.2 The Trust Board is asked to note the content of this report and the 2007/08 Safeguarding Children's Annual report.

Gary Etheridge
Director of Nursing

August 2008