

**TRUST BOARD MEETING – 22ND JANUARY 2009**

Title of the Paper:	Safeguarding Children Progress Report
Agenda Item:	16/09
Author:	Gary Etheridge, Director of Nursing and Patient Services
Trust Objective:	<b>Strategic Objective 2</b> 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).
<b>Key issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensuring Safeguarding of all Children who attend the Trust.</li><li>Implementation of recommendations of Local Serious Case Reviews and National Inquiries.</li><li><b>As instructed by the Healthcare Commission, conduct a swift review of the arrangements that the Trust has in place to ensure that we are meeting obligations with regard to Safeguarding Children.</b></li></ul>	
<b>Purpose:</b> The report provides the Trust Board with an update on the recent progress of delivering the Safeguarding Children Agenda within the organisation.	
<b>Risk Implications for the Trust:</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions:</b>
Failure to Safeguard Children attending the Trust will put children at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Policies and Procedures.</li><li>Representation on the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Strategic Board and Sub Groups.</li><li>Trust wide Training on Safeguarding Children to all staff with patient contact.</li><li>Quarterly Safeguarding Children's Audits.</li><li>Daily review of all acute admissions to the Trust and liaison with inter agency professionals.</li><li>Providing support and guidance to all clinicians within the Trust.</li></ul>
<b>Level of Assurance that can be given to the Trust Board from the report</b>	
Significant	
<b>Links to Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE 1 - 5)</b>	
N/A	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Recommendation to the Trust Board:</b>	
Trust Board members are asked to note the content of the Safeguarding Children progress report which provides assurance that children in need of support and/or safeguarding are recognised, referred and protected.	



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Public Board Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009

**Safeguarding Children Progress Report**

Presented by: Gary Etheridge, Director of Nursing

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**1 Purpose**

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

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Safeguarding has once again been placed in the spotlight in light of recent events in Haringey relating to the Serious Case Review of Baby P and the Joint Area Review of Haringey's Children's services. Additionally, Lord Laming has been asked by the Secretary of State for Children's Schools and Families, to look at the current arrangements for the safeguarding of all children, and in particular Serious Case Reviews and the way in which they are carried out by Local Safeguarding Children's Boards. This report is due out in late February 2009.
- 2.2 In preparation of Lord Laming's report and in particular the recommendations, the Trust's Safeguarding Children Team are reviewing the recommendations from Local Serious Case reviews since 2003 and reporting back to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (HSCB) on our actions and progress.
- 2.2 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. The Safeguarding Team ensures that the Trust implements recommendations from Local Serious Case Reviews and National Inquiries.
- 2.3 Since 2005 the Trust has had in place an established Safeguarding Team, who are focused on working to ensure that a high standard of care is achieved for all children who access our services.
- 2.4 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 and Child Protection Nurse Advisor. The Named Doctor has two sessions a month to concentrate on his Safeguarding Role. The Team are offered support and Guidance from the West Hertfordshire Designated Doctor and Nurse.
- 2.5 In addition to the named professionals, each 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 the Divisional Safeguarding Children Leads Group, chaired by the Named Nurse, Safeguarding Children. 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.
- 3.2 The Safeguarding Children's 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 protecting children.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The Trust follows the HSCB Child Protection procedures, which have been distributed Trust wide in hardback and handbook size to all frontline practitioners. The Trust has also recently produced a '*Safeguarding Children within the Trust*' book which is distributed to all frontline professionals and is available in all acute areas that see children, and on the Trust Intranet.
- 3.5 Hertfordshire Social Services (Children, Schools Families) were working under the supervision of Children First, an external support agency commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council, following the unsatisfactory outcome of a Joint Area Review in 2007 by the Health Care Commission. The team has now withdrawn from Hertfordshire. Since then it has been recognised that CSF has made the foundations for continuous improvement and there is evidence of Improvement in practice, including a more confident and effective CSF Board. Additionally, the HSCB is driving forward the safeguarding agenda within CSF and member agencies. The Trust liases daily with CSF to discuss cases and share information about children attending our service. The Named Nurse has recently carried out a detailed report into the referrals made to Children's Schools and Families and the outcome of these referrals (see Appendix 1).
- 3.6 The HSCB made significant changes in 2008 following the Joint Area review in 2007. The Board has appointed a new Chair and has strengthened the relationship between themselves and the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership) by means of the Chairperson having a seat on the Core Executive Group of the HCTP, ensuring strategic Safeguarding guidance to the wider children's agenda. The Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP) was officially launched in April 2006. It is a countywide partnership bringing together Hertfordshire organisations that provide services for children and young people. It is playing a leading role in the development and implementation of the Government's Every Child Matters programme. The Named Nurse and Midwife have representation on sub groups (Training Sub Group and Policies and Procedures Sub Group) within the reconfiguration of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board.
- 3.7 The Trust maintains the recommendations made by Lord Laming (2003) and Serious Case Reviews via a Safeguarding Children's Action Plan (**available on request from the Director of Nursing**). The plan is maintained and audited quarterly by the Named Nurse and Safeguarding Children's Team. Results of the biannual review are disseminated throughout the organization.

- 3.8 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 3000 staff have received Stage I Basic Awareness Training. All staff working in A&E and Paediatrics receive additional mandatory Safeguarding Children Training yearly and on induction to the Trust (100% of these Staff attended additional training in 2008). The Named Nurse has also conducted training with Personnel and other Trust Personnel that do not have direct patient contact but need a basic awareness. Since April 2008 to end December 2008, **911** staff have attended Mandatory and Corporate Induction Safeguarding Children training within the Trust - this includes staff working on the Bank and non-nursing staff

<b>STAFF BAND</b>	<b>Numbers Trained</b>
2-3	215
5	525
6	198
7	36
8	17
<b>All staff within Paediatrics and A&amp;E have had additional Training in Safeguarding Children (146 staff -intake of medical staff every 4 months)</b>	
<b>STAFF BAND</b>	<b>Numbers Trained</b>
2-3	8
5	45
6	26
7	6
8	6
Medical Staff FY1/2 ST 1-8	45
Consultants	10

Staff are also offered further specialised training via Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board up to Stage III, which 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 one stop study day sessions.

- 3.9 Work actively progressed by the Safeguarding Children's Team during the last six months includes:
- Attendance at regular multi-agency meetings in the PCT and within the Trust
  - Review of all referrals to children's social care
  - Daily review of acute paediatric attendances to the Trust. In Autumn 2008 the team developed a system whereby the attendances of Adults who present with conditions that could affect the Children in their care are reviewed. These presentations include Mental Health issues, Domestic Abuse and Drug/Alcohol problems. Subsequent to review, referrals to CSF are made, if a concern is identified relating to the children in their care
  - 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. A new Paediatric Liaison Nurse is in post 2 days a week to assist the Liaison Health Visitor and facilitate communication across agencies

- 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 Hospital Safeguarding Children's Steering Group.
- Maintenance of the list of children who have a Child Protection Plan in Place (CPR) in the frontline areas of the Trust, with every child attending the Trust being checked against the Register
- Trust Safeguarding Children Guidelines have been written by the Named Nurse

3.10 Quarterly 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 conducted an audit of referrals to Children's Schools and Families in 2008.

3.11 During late 2008 the CPR changed its title to become a 'Child with a Protection Plan in Place'. This is a list of children in Hertfordshire who have a Child Protection Plan in place and the Trust receives a copy of this list monthly to Frontline Areas. Routinely, all children that attend our Emergency service are checked on admission whether they have a Child Protection Plan in place, and CSF are always informed when a child with a Protection Plan in place attends the Trust as part of effective multiagency working. If there are concerns about a child who attends the Trust, who is known to have a Protection Plan in place then they are seen by a Paediatrician, as would any child if there were safeguarding concerns.

#### **4. Developments Planned for 2009**

4.1 As well as maintaining the current agenda for Safeguarding Children the following are planned for 2009:

- 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. Integrated Services in Hertfordshire are attending the Trust in early 2009 to introduce this process in the Trust.
- 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. CSF are asked to attend all discharge Planning Meetings, professional meetings and the Safeguarding Team regularly attend Initial Child Protection Conferences.
- A review of all Local Serious Case Reviews and our actions as a result of recommendations from these reviews.

#### **5. Healthcare Commission Safeguarding Children Review**

5.1 Following the recent Joint Area Review of Children's Services in Haringey, with particular focus on Safeguarding, the Healthcare Commission has been asked by the Secretary of State to conduct a swift review of the arrangements that NHS organisations (all Trust's, Foundation Trusts & PCTs), have in place to ensure they are meeting obligations with regard to Safeguarding Children. The review will look at Board assurance, around: Child Protection systems, including governance arrangements, training and staffing, and Trust's arrangements for working in partnership with others to Safeguard Children.

5.2 The timetable for the review is:

- December 2008 - consulting stakeholders and designing the review and assessment framework (scoping phase)

- January 2009 - registration of Project Leads and launch of web-based data collection tool. The Trust's Director of Nursing has registered as the Trust's Project Lead
- January 2009 - data collected over a four-week period and submitted via a web-based submission process
- March 2009 - data analysis and checking
- March 2009 - it is anticipated that organisations will be provided with anonymised results and an overall assessment score
- April 2009 - unannounced visits to Trust's and discussion of findings with Stakeholders
- June-July 2009 - anonymised publication of results. Improvement planning, undertaken by a limited number of selected organisations

## **6. Recommendation**

6.1 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.

**6.2 The Trust Board is asked to note the content of this report, and specifically note the forthcoming Healthcare Commission Safeguarding Children review.**

**Gary Etheridge**  
**Director of Nursing**

**January 2009**