

NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group

# SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY

2017 - 2019

# NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group Safeguarding Strategy

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) holds the value that living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person. It acknowledges its statutory responsibility to promote the welfare of children and young people and to protect adults from abuse and risk of harm.
- 1.2. This strategy sets out the strategic approach required to ensure safe and effective safeguarding services are in place, thereby strengthening the arrangements for safeguarding adults and children across the CCG health economy.
- 1.3. The CCG vision is to commission services that protect individual human rights, promote dignity, independence and well-being, hear and respond to the needs of children, young people, adults and carers and demonstrate assurance that any child, young person or adult thought to be at risk, is safeguarded and protected from harm or abuse.
- 1.4. This Strategy does not detail procedure and operational policies required for the management of safeguarding children and adults. Rather, these are developed in partnership with, and available through, the multi-agency operational policies approved by St Helens Safeguarding Children and St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 1.5. The CCG will work with the Safeguarding Boards, statutory agencies and its provider organisations to ensure the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the well-being of children, young people and adults at risk from harm or abuse.
- 1.6. Safeguarding priorities are central to ensuring high quality and safe care. The NHS Outcomes Framework 2015/16 identifies that sustainable quality improvements are achieved when the focus is on outcomes, rather than being process driven. The DH NHS Outcomes Framework sets out five overarching high-level outcome domains for quality improvements, in terms of safeguarding the CCG must assure commissioned services:
  - *Domain 4: Ensuring people have a positive experience of care*
  - *Domain 5: Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm*

- 1.7. The CCG will need to demonstrate assurance to NHS England for the services it commissions through compliance with the NHS England CCG Outcomes Indicator Set (2015).
- 1.8. The CCG will evidence that their commissioned services achieve local priorities and demonstrate progress on improved quality and safety outcomes year on year through the use of specific contractual arrangements and metrics with provider organisations.
- 1.9. This would include having in place: Key Performance Indicators (KPI), CQUIN targets, quality schedules, systems to embed learning from incidents and complaints, comprehensive single and multiagency safeguarding policies and procedures and a safeguarding training strategy and framework.
- 1.10. In addition the CCG will support the recommendations from public inquiries such as: the Francis Inquiry (2013), Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (2014) and the Lampard Enquiry (2015) regarding openness, transparency, duty of candour and leadership being integral to service delivery and outcomes across the health economy.
- 1.11. This safeguarding strategy must be read in conjunction with the CCG Safeguarding Policy, Safeguarding Training Strategy and other relevant CCG policies, such as Whistleblowing Policy and Recruitment Policy.
- 1.12. Any St Helens CCG employee, who identifies a safeguarding concern about a child, young person or adult must discuss their concern immediately with their line manager and/or the designated nurse or contact St Helens Local Authority front door/contact centre to get appropriate advice and support. Contact details for the designated nurses and the Local Authority (both in and out of hours) are listed on page 8 of this strategy.
- 1.13. NHS England Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS-Accountability and Assurance Framework (2015) identifies that: robust information sharing practice is at the heart of good safeguarding practice, with legislation (Data Protection Act 1998) and case law to clarify issues of confidentiality and privacy.
- 1.14. The CCG Caldicott Guardian and designated professionals can advise CCG staff and partner agencies regarding sharing proportionate 'health' information so as to protect specific children or adults or if it is in the wider public interest to do so.

## **2. Responsibilities**

- 2.1. Overall accountability for safeguarding within St Helens CCG rests with the Accountable Officer (AO). The Chief Nurse (CN) is responsible for senior clinical leadership and advocating for vulnerable groups across the CCG health economy. The AO and CN are responsible for ensuring that robust constitution

and governance arrangements are in place and maintained, and include succession planning, to ensure the delivery of all safeguarding duties and objectives.

### 3. Background

3.1. The “*Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS-Accountability and Assurance Framework* (NHS England, 2015) identifies mandated objectives which CCGs must assure in relation to safeguarding:

- **Objective 13** - ...CCGs work with local authorities to ensure that vulnerable people, particularly those with learning disabilities and autism, receive safe, appropriate, high quality care.
- **Objective 23** – CCG to demonstrate progress against the Governmental priorities: continuing to improve safeguarding practice in the NHS; contributing to multi-agency family support services for vulnerable and troubled families; contributing to reducing violence, in particular by improving the way the NHS shares information about violent assaults with partners, and supports victims of crime;

3.2. The designated safeguarding professionals have a key function across the commissioning cycle, from procurement to quality assurance, to support the CCG in assuring effective safeguarding arrangements that support the delivery of improved outcomes and life chances for the most vulnerable, in all CCG commissioned services.

3.3. The key legislation for children and young people includes the Children Act (1989) and the Children Act (2004). Section 10 of the 2004 Act creates a statutory framework for local co-operation between local authorities, partner agencies and other bodies including the voluntary and community sector in order to improve the wellbeing of children in a local area. Statutory guidance such as ‘Making arrangements to promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004’<sup>vi</sup> reinforces and describes the duties of health services. The revised Working Together to Safeguard Children <sup>vii</sup> (2015) recognises the changing commissioning arrangements within the NHS and need for more robust arrangements manage allegations against staff the thresholds for serious case reviews.

3.4. From April 2015, the Care Act <sup>viii</sup> (2014) has provided a statutory footing to safeguard adults, thereby replacing previous guidance such as No Secrets (2000). The Care Act creates a legal framework to promote a shared approach by all agencies with responsibilities for adult safeguarding to work together to keep adults at risk safe.

3.5. The Care Act promotes a fundamental shift in the provision of the adult safeguarding process; emphasis is firmly placed upon promoting the wellbeing of the victim through Making Safeguarding Personal. The shift in safeguarding practice is from process to personalisation.

- 3.6. This statute expands the categories of abuse, adding organisational abuse, domestic abuse, modern slavery and self-neglect, but equally focuses on the individual's well-being. The legislation operates in tandem with Human Rights Act (1998) Mental Capacity Act (2005), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (2009) and the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) to protect the rights, freedoms and wellbeing of children as they transition into adult services as well as adults and carers.
- 3.7. Although the safeguarding frameworks for adults and children are managed separately, nationally they do often link/crossover or can run concurrently, for example in domestic abuse concerns, the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC).
- 3.8. The lead agency for safeguarding children and adults is the local authority whilst the National Probation Service leads on MAPPA, the Police lead on MARAC and the Community Safety Partnerships lead on domestic abuse and Domestic Homicide Reviews. Health commissioners and providers are expected to contribute to all safeguarding processes and have lead persons identified to support MAPPA and MARAC and have policies in place to respond to domestic abuse.

## **4. Strategy**

### **4.1. Aim**

St Helens CCG aims to commission services that promotes and protects individual human rights and which effectively safeguards against abuse, neglect, discrimination or poor treatment. The CCG recognises that safeguarding children and adults is a shared responsibility and will ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to co-operate with the local authority in the operation of the safeguarding boards. The CCG recognises and supports the need for robust and proportionate information sharing arrangements between health professionals and partner agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and adults and in the interests of public safety.

### **4.2 St Helens CCG Strategic objectives**

The key strategic objectives are:

#### **4.2.1 To provide senior and board-level leadership:**

- Senior leadership responsibility and lines of accountability for the CCG safeguarding arrangements are clearly outlined to employees and members of the CCG, as well as to external partners

- Contribute to the work of STHSCB and LSAB and their Safeguarding Strategic Business Plan and priorities and provide support to ensure that the boards meet their statutory responsibilities.
- Support designated individuals to contribute to, and influence, the work of the STHSCB and LSAB subgroups and other national and local safeguarding implementation networks

#### 4.2.2. To Ensure safeguarding arrangements are in place:

- Integrate safeguarding within other CCG functions and contractual arrangements, such as quality and safety, patient experience, healthcare acquired infections, management of serious incidents
- Secure the expertise of designated professionals. Including the expertise of a designated doctor for children and also for Looked After Children (LAC) and a designated paediatrician for unexpected deaths in childhood
- Safeguarding professionals have appropriate amount of time and support to complete both individual management reviews and health overview reports
- To fulfil the statutory requirement to participate in multiagency case reviews, Serious Case Reviews and Serious Adults Reviews as identified by the respective safeguarding boards and also to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) as identified by Home Office/Community Safety Partnerships.
- There is a safeguarding adult lead and a lead for the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2009.
- There is a CCG Adult lead for Prevent as required under the government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST.
- CCG staff, including the Governing Body, are trained to embed safeguarding within the commissioning process and are able to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.
- St Helens CCG Board will be held accountable for ensuring children and young people receive high quality, evidence based care and are seen in appropriate environments, by staff, with the requisite skills, training values and expected behaviours. The intercollegiate document stipulates that Boards/CCG Governing Bodies have access to safeguarding advice and expertise through their Designated Professionals.

- The CCG, through its designated professionals, will actively work to raise awareness of, and ensure robust arrangements are developed and in place, to address the risk and harm associated with both national and local issues such as: human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, missing children, radicalization of vulnerable individuals and adults and female genital mutilation.
- The CCG will disseminate national and local publications, alerts, information and data relating to safeguarding adults at risk and children
- The CCG will publicise on its website contact details for staff with specific safeguarding responsibilities, disseminate key learning and themes from local and national inquiries and provide links to signpost CCG staff and members of the public to organisations and support to safeguard adults and children at risk of or who have suffered significant harm

#### 4.2.3 **Commission safe services**

- Have a clear strategy for Looked After Children and the commissioning of appropriate services
- Ensure that all aspects of safeguarding work and practice are considered and incorporated in all existing provider contracts and Service Level Agreements
- Service developments take account of the need to safeguard all patients, and are informed where appropriate, by the views of service users and by a Quality Impact Assessment
- Processes in place to ensure that adult care placements (such as care homes, nursing homes or independent hospitals) are based on knowledge of standards of care and safeguarding concerns by utilising intelligence from monitoring partners, such as the local authority, Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- Strengthen contractual arrangements for children and adults in 'out of area' provision for LAC, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and or / residential care for adults with some elements of specialist health need
- Processes in place to disseminate, monitor and evaluate outcomes of all multiagency case reviews, serious case reviews (SCR), serious adults reviews (SAR) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) recommendations and actions plan within the CCG and with providers

- Demonstrate compliance with the Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards through systems, processes and outcomes.
- Ensure that there are effective arrangements for sharing information between designated professionals, health partners and also within the multiagency area to ensure the prevention of and protection from harm and abuse for children, young people and adults.
- Designated professionals will monitor commissioned NHS provider organisation's safeguarding training compliance and safeguarding systems
- Seek assurance that commissioned providers are meeting their statutory safeguarding responsibilities, and in particular that staff are following approved NICE guidance, and that the young people (and their carers where appropriate) are supported to transition from children's services into adult services.

## **5. Deliver the strategy**

5.1 A timescale will be agreed against each strategic objective and a responsible lead identified through a safeguarding work plan. This work will include additional activities as required through any review processes or changes to local and national guidance and requirements.

5.2 St Helens CCG will ensure that its designated clinical experts are integral to decision making within the CCG and have the authority to work across local health economies, to influence and shape the culture and practice within provider services.

5.3 St Helens CCG will, through the designated professionals, work alongside the neighbouring CCGs and Safeguarding Boards to ensure that a proactive approach is maintained both through specific work streams and also in the commissioning of services for children, LAC and for services for adults at risk of abuse.

## **6. Monitor Assurance**

6.1 The safeguarding strategy will be monitored through the St Helens Quality and Performance Committee and the development of specific action plans to manage progress of assurance reporting.

6.2 Comprehensive service specifications for children and adults' services, of which child & adult protection/ safeguarding is a key component, is evident in all contracts with provider organisations. Service specifications include clear service

standards and KPIs (key performance indicators) for safeguarding Children & Adults and promoting their welfare, consistent with STHSCB/ LSAB procedures.

- 6.3 Contract monitoring is achieved through provider management /performance meetings to provide assurance and/ or appropriate exception reporting
- 6.4 Quality assurance visits to commissioned services and independent providers and the collation of quality and patient safety data and 'soft' intelligence will facilitate the identification, monitoring and analysis of safeguarding concerns in relation to potential vulnerability, risk and need
- 6.5 An Annual Report will be provided to St Helens CCG Governing Body and also the St Helens Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards.

#### References:

Department of Health (2014) NHS Outcomes Framework;  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/385749/NHS\\_Outcomes\\_Framework.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/385749/NHS_Outcomes_Framework.pdf)

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NHS England (2015) Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS-Accountability and Assurance Framework; <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/safeguarding-accountability-assurance-framework.pdf>

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HM Government (2015) Working Together to Safeguard Children:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

HM Government (2014) The Care Act  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>