

ITEM: 09/130
Doc: 11

Meeting: Trust Board
Date: 16 September 2009

Title: **Safeguarding children**

Executive Summary: A progress report against the recommendations in the CQC review of safeguarding children and the subsequent letter from David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, is attached.

There are two key areas of action required against the recommendations:

- introduction of universal check of the lists of children subject to a child protection plan for every child attending the hospital, which Board members have previously discussed
- creation of protected PAs for the named doctor for child protection.

Board members will also be aware that the Board Assurance Framework has a risk detailed about standards for safeguarding children at section 1.2. This is listed as having substantial assurance and is currently risk rated as 9 (green).

The trust also declared full compliance with standard C2 (child protection) in the CQC core standards submission in April 2009. Recent information received from CQC outlining the 34 data sources used to cross check the trust's declaration against that standard has rated the risk of undeclared non-compliance within the trust as low.

Board members are asked to approve the publication of a declaration by the trust that there is robust assurance of the adequacy of safeguarding children processes, in line with the letter from David Nicholson. The draft declaration is attached.

Action: Board members are asked to agree that the trust has sufficient, robust assurance about safeguarding arrangements and approve the draft declaration for publication

Report from: Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance

Lead: All directors

Reference:

safeguarding children: a review of arrangements in the NHS for safeguarding children, CQC, July 2009

Compliance with Healthcare Commission Core/Developmental Standards

Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

Reference:

C2

Care Quality Commission review of safeguarding children in the NHS

Board members will recall that the then Healthcare Commission undertook data collection in early 2009 to inform a review of safeguarding arrangements following the conclusion of the legal case relating to Baby Peter. The Care Quality Commission published the findings of the review in July 2009, and the national summary from that report is attached. We are still awaiting distribution of the individual trust results.

A subsequent letter from David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, (attached B) required all trusts to assess their own position against the findings of the report, so that Boards could assure themselves that best practice and statutory requirements are followed.

The table attached (appendix C) outlines the Whittington position against those recommendations. Board members will see that the key piece of work remains the need to implement universal child protection plan checks for all children attending ED. NHS London have begun a piece of work to develop an electronic solution for this, and the Whittington will be the first pilot site, commencing by the end of September. Lorraine Lawton, Paediatric ED Nurse Consultant, is leading this work on behalf of Deborah Wheeler.

The other area of work to be progressed involves ensuring that the named doctor for child protection has at least one protected PA per week for this work. This has been highlighted with the relevant general manager and is being addressed in the 2009 job planning reviews.

Other assurance

Board members will be aware that the trust's sources of assurance for child protection are also listed in the Board Assurance Framework at item 1.2. This was reviewed by Audit Committee on 7 September, and is recorded as providing substantial assurance against an overall risk rating of 9 (green).

The trust also declared full compliance with core standard C2 (child protection) in its declaration to the Care Quality Commission on April 2009, covering 2008/9. In addition, the trust recently received the detailed trust profile report from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), outlining the information that CQC used to cross check the trust's core standards declaration submitted in April 2009. This cites 34 separate pieces of evidence that have been used to validate the trust's declaration, and rates the estimated likelihood of undeclared non-compliance as low.

Board members are therefore asked to agree that the trust has sufficient assurance that safeguarding procedures are robust and appropriate. A draft declaration is attached (appendix D); Board members are asked to approve this for publication.