

Derby City Healthcare Services Review following the Haringey Joint Area Review for Derby City Local Safeguarding Children Board

1. Background

Healthcare organisations protect children following national child protection guidelines within their own activities and in their dealings with other organisations.

Within the Health Care Commission standards there are 3 main areas for monitoring safeguarding children arrangements:

- **Provider organisations have defined and implemented effective process for identifying, reporting and taking action on child protection issues in accordance with national guidance.**

All provider organisations have single and multi agency procedures (Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures). Single agency (Health) Safeguarding Children Policy produced through the Named and Designated Professionals Group (Commissioning Group) which is chaired by the Designated Professionals in rotation between Derby and Derbyshire County and includes representation from each provider organisation. Arrangements for child protection issues are well defined in line with national guidance.

Monitoring of the effective child protection arrangements, implementation of policy, training and supervision are soon to be in place through the Safeguarding Children Quality Assurance Tool.

- **Safeguarding in whom illness is induced or fabricated by carers.**

A policy was developed by the Designated Doctors and commissioned through Named and Designated Professionals Group. This has formed part of the Safeguarding Children Policy within all provider organisations

- **Provider organisations work with relevant partners and communities to protect children in accordance with national guidance.**

Participation in Derby City Safeguarding Children's Board

All Provider organisations have representation at Derby Safeguarding Children Board (and attendance is monitored through the Board) and are included in the arrangements set out to safeguard children. These arrangements are to be monitored through Derby City Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Children Quality Assurance Tool.

External inspection of children services in 2007 by Joint Area Review (JAR) reported that Safeguarding Children arrangements were good.

2. Quality Assurance in Health Services

The Strategic Health Authority developed the Markers of Good Practice Tool to provide assurance and challenge to Health Providers in their Safeguarding children function.

- The county and city approach is to baseline provider's current position against the agreed indicators. City lead on PCT Provider Services, Derby Hospitals FT, and Derbyshire Mental Health Trust (shared with County); we also support County with NHS Direct and Derbyshire Healthcare United.
- The expectation is for each provider to produce an action plan to improve levels of assurance and safeguarding.
- Progress against indicators and this review was undertaken by the EMSHA in 2006/2007. The 2008/9 review was to have completed in January 2009 but has been delayed in the Light of the current review of Safeguarding Procedures by Lord Laming and the subsequent development of an Audit Tool to be provided by the Health Care Commission. The Commission have requested each Health Trust identify an organisational lead. Our East Midlands Designated Professionals Network has forwarded a Self Assessment Quality Tool as a Proposal of the way forward for Healthcare Assurance Audit to the healthcare Commission.
- There are 24 'markers' set out in the self assessment tool and provider organisations will be visited by the Lead for Safeguarding at the SHA and PCT Designated Professionals. A report to PCT Board will follow.
- The main areas of enquiry includes key elements contained within
 - a) National Service Framework (NSF) core standard 5 which sets out measures to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
 - b) The Children Act 2004 section 11 arrangements which is the legislative framework and has an overall aim to create clear accountability and effective joint working to secure a better focus to safeguard children action plans will be monitored through contract mechanisms
- The main areas covered in the indicators are, Leadership and Organisational Accountability; Serious Case Reviews; Safer working practice; Training; Supervision and Markers of Best Practice as previously identified. Provider Organisations will still be invited to complete the self assessment exercise for January 09 and develop action plans in tandem with the EMSHA Markers of best practice exercise and against the assessment of practice against Lord Laming's initial comments and the outcome of the Ofsted JAR report on Haringey Children's Services 2008. In addition the findings of the recent Sheffield Serious Case Review (SCR) will be considered.

3. Strengthening Structures

A review of the NHS Safeguarding Children arrangements in Derby and Derbyshire County in 2007, culminated in the actions below a final report of which was submitted to PCT Trust Boards in January 2008.

- As a result of this work the safeguarding children services in Derby and Derbyshire were reconfigured to provide a service within each PCT area.
- Designated Nurse and Doctor were integrated within the commissioning function of the PCT which supports the independence of the function from provider services and subsequently within SCR and IMR Scrutiny panels.
- Named Professionals were arranged to take into account the arrangements within PCT children services and integration with children social care teams.
- Governance structures were reviewed and clear lines of accountability and communication strengthened.
- There is currently work ongoing in the development of Clinical Quality Standards to support the Clinical Quality Schedule for contracts with providers.
- Designated Professionals provide assurance and challenge to NHS Derby City by quarterly report to the Clinical Quality and Patient Safety Group.

4. Post Haringey Health Services Review

A meeting of core health service providers was held on January 9th to address local issues in relation to the findings of the Ofsted report from Haringey, the Baby A Serious Case Review and using the questions put to us by GOEM. The two major areas of concern for health centred on Training and Inter-agency Health pathways.

- **Training**

It is the view of the group that there is further work to be done with the LSCB on the Monitoring, Accrediting and Outcome evaluation of Safeguarding Training. In particular, ensuring that different regulators and other bodies use the same standards for training.

Monitoring of LSCB training also requires an improvement in documentation systems to allow for audit and evaluation across the different health care provider organisations.

- **Record Keeping and Supervision:**

Each Health organisation should review their Record Keeping Audit Standards to assure Compliance with recommendations 4.3

- **Inter-Health Pathways**

As the healthcare system becomes increasingly segmented with multiple providers of services, more robust and formal communication pathways need to be developed to ensure safeguarding is addressed consistently. Further development of risk criteria and triggers also need to be undertaken to prompt better relationships between groups and the requirement of increased communication. It was suggested that joint visits could be helpful in developing this.

There is still a vacancy for a Named GP which the PCT are actively pursuing. This role includes membership on the DSCB Stay Safe Group, providing Leadership in primary care and Safeguarding Training for that group.

- **Health Monitoring**

A specific issue arising from the review material was regarding medicals for children on child protection plans. It was not considered practical or desirable for 6 monthly full medicals on all children on Child Protection Plans. It was agreed that there should be a Health Plan for all Vulnerable Children with clear actions and responsibilities.

5. Recommended Actions:

It was agreed that this Health group continue to meet as a Task & Finish Group following Lord Laming's Report to implement findings and work towards a Safeguarding Care Pathway for Children and consider the HCC Audit when available.

The group would look to how best to develop a system for the improvement of communication and referral between health professionals across the health community who work with children.

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