

Annual Report
Half Year September 2007

Safeguarding Children at the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
Child Protection Report

Our responsibility as a NHS Hospital Trust is to ensure children who attend our hospital are safe.

“Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (DfES 2006), identifies our statutory responsibilities & duties and how our organisation should work together with others to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; it was produced as a response to the Children Act 1989. The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (NSF) is an integral part of Every Child Matters (DfES 2003) and also sets standards for safeguarding children.

Our progress at achieving these standards is reviewed by the local safeguarding children’s boards (LSCB) in the boroughs of Haringey and Islington (this is their statutory responsibility) and the Healthcare Commission.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfES 2006) states our responsibility as a hospital trust:

- **The NHS Trust must work in partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB)**

The lead nurse for safeguarding children represents the Whittington on both the Haringey & Islington LSCB. There has been 100% attendance at both board’s meetings.

The minutes of these meetings are reported and discussed at the Trust Strategic Child Protection Forum to ensure that relevant matters to the hospital are shared and actioned.

The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust fully participates in Serious Case Reviews.

- **Whittington Hospitals NHS Trust must contribute to Serious Case Reviews (SCR) as identified by LSCBs**

Following the death of PC, an 18-month boy who presented at North Middlesex Hospital in August 2007, Haringey LSCB commenced a serious case review. The Whittington’s internal management report was completed by the named nurse for child protection and submitted by September 17th 2007. PC was a patient at the Whittington paediatric unit between Dec 2006 and Jan 2007, when child protection concerns were identified and acted upon appropriately.

December 2006 - DT, a 16-year-old girl found hanging at home, was brought to the Whittington and died in ITU. DT had been seen and assessed at the Whittington in the preceding months. Haringey LSCB serious case review subgroup initiated a multi-agency review to which we have contributed. This did not progress to a serious case review but an internal review (Whittington Hospital) has been completed, issues identified and actioned.

There have been three cases of unexpected death of children and young people presenting in the Emergency Department since March 2007. These were considered by the LSGB SCR sub-groups in which Whittington Hospital has been involved, providing medical information. No further action was required.

From April 2008 there will be a statutory requirement for Child Death Review panels to review EVERY child death in the local area. Dr. Mackinnon and Jo Carroll are involved in multi agency discussions, led by the designated doctor for child protection, Tony Wheeler, to decide how we are to achieve this across health.

- **All NHS Trust should identify a named Doctor, a named Nurse, and where there is a maternity unit, a named Midwife with responsibility for safeguarding children.**

Dr Heather Mackinnon (Paediatrician) has continued responsibility as the 'Named Doctor'. Dr. Mackinnon is taking a 3-month sabbatical between October 2007 and January 2008. The role will be covered by Dr. Caroline Fertleman, supported by the designated Doctor for Child Protection (Islington) Dr. Tony Wheeler.

Jacqueline Davidson, midwifery matron, has continued responsibility as the 'Named Midwife'. During the past half-year the structure of the Women & Children Health Division was reviewed and this process allowed for review of post responsibilities. The named midwife was acknowledged as a vital role and increased resources were identified, both time and a new midwifery post to support vulnerable women & infants

The 'Named Nurse' role continues to be the responsibility of Jo Carroll, Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children. The 'Named nurse' is supported the Paediatric Liaison Nurse, Jo Ayton. This post continues to be jointly funded by Islington PCT and Haringey TPCT. We are able to ensure that the responsibilities of the named nurse are covered throughout the 5-day working week.

The focus of the named individuals is to safeguard children and promote good practice, provide advice and support for all staff.

- **To ensure Safeguarding Children Training Strategy is in place and delivered.**

This strategy has been influenced by both national and local Child Protection and Safeguarding reviews and guidance including:

- Working together to Safeguard Children (DFES 2006)
- Whittington Hospital NHS Trust Serious case reviews (2005-6)
- Health Care Commission report (2005/6)
- National Service Framework for children & young people (DH 2004)
- Roles and Competences for Health Care Staff (RCPCH 2006)

The training sessions are categorised in levels as recommended by the RCPCH & associated professional bodies and as recognised by the Department of Health and other assessing bodies.

- Level 1 - All staff working in a health care setting
- Level 2 - Clinical & non- clinical staff who have contact with children & young people & parents
- Level 3 – All staff working predominantly with children & young people & parents
- Level 4 – Named & designated Child Protection Professionals
- Level 5 – Designated Child Protection Professional
- Level 6 – Experts in Child Protection

It is envisaged that training at levels 1 and 2 will be provided within the Trust using the local resources e.g. lead child protection staff, locations & equipment. Training at level 3 & 4 will be accessed from outside the trust.

The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust Safeguarding Children Training Strategy 2007/8 was ratified by the trust's Strategic Child Protection Forum.

Level 1 training has been provided for: -

1. every new permanent member of staff attending hospital induction; between April 2007 to September 2007 there was a total 148 of new starters.
2. all Whittington staff who attend mandatory annual clinical update. This included over 40 Staff bank employees.

During 2008/9

1. for all temporary staff to receive level 1 training. This is envisaged to be of a self-directed / task oriented nature.
2. annual mandatory training updates for non-clinical staff

Level 2 training has been provided for staff working directly with children;

- Emergency department
- paediatric unit including the neonatal unit.
- Midwifery

The Child Protection training strategy proposed training as one-hour packages and as this believed to be the best use of staff and resources. This approach has been unsuccessful, except in the Emergency Department. (ED), as it was found difficult to release staff, even for an hour, during a shift and those attending sessions were student nurses rather than permanent staff.

Consequently there is now a pilot of six months of four-hour training sessions. The first session (July) had 12 participants and was evaluated positively.

In ED, child protection training is integrated into the general training programme. A series of one-hour sessions are taught in a 3-month cycle. Nine sessions have been taught with average attendance of 5 nurses at each. Feedback is very positive from participants and managers.

Specific midwifery child protection study days continue to be facilitated by Midwife Gaynor Wood and are evaluated very well by participants. The number of sessions was cut from 6 days per year to 3, due to clinical pressures. After review, the agreement between managers, staff and clinical facilitators is that for 2007/8 there will be 3 full (required every 3 years) and 3 half-study days (required annually).

Dr. Heather Mackinnon and Dr. Caroline Fertleman (Paediatrician – with responsibility for training), in partnership with named and designated child protection professionals from Islington PCT, continue to co-ordinate very success RCPCH training day for Senior House Officers, “Safeguarding Children - recognition and response”, twice a year in April & November; more than 18 junior doctors attended the last session.

Dr. Caroline Fertleman arranged a very successful training afternoon for hospital & PCT staff with expert speakers regarding the links between domestic violence and child protection issues. Evaluation concluded the seminar was both interesting and practically useful.

The new SHO and Registrars employed in the emergency department and paediatric unit all received training on commencing their posts.

Level 3 training is accessed from outside the hospital at no cost from the local safeguarding children’s board. The new programmes are available from August and details will be available from September on the Whittington’s intranet.

Level 4 training - The named professionals for safeguarding children have access to monthly workshops provided by the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust.

The Healthcare Commission (2006) reported that many staff groups do not receive any training regarding safeguarding children, both nationally and locally, this included acquisition of skills required to communicate with children. These groups included:

1. Senior Doctors especially Orthopaedics and surgical
2. Staff in area where children are seen / treated other than paediatric units.

Dr. Caroline Fertleman has successfully provided training sessions for identified groups of the medical profession. The 12 members of the orthopaedic team attended an audit afternoon seminar in March “ Did he fall or was he pushed? - The evidence for causation of fractures in children”. This was received very well as being enlightening and practical.

Dr. Fertleman entertained and educated the Anaesthetics department with the seminar “What do anaesthetist need to know about Child Protection” in June and more training has been requested.

The hospital on-call management system (gold, silver & bronze teams) have level 1-2 training sessions planned for later in the year.

Adult outpatients departments that see children still need to be targeted.

- **Ensure that Safeguarding Children issues are part of the Hospital Trust clinical governance system.**

Safeguarding children structures with the trust were reviewed during 2005/6. Since April 2006 there has been a two level structure.

Strategic Child Protection Forum continues to meet quarterly and is chaired by the director of nursing and clinical development, Deborah Wheeler, who is also the trust's children's champion.

Operational Child Protection Forum is chaired by Linda McGurrin, Divisional Manager for Women and Children's Services, and has senior clinical representatives attending from around the hospital. Since January 2007 the group has met every other month, but attendance was very poor, with a number of meetings needing to reconvene. The group reports to the Strategic CP forum.

In August 2007, it was decided to formally review the governance structure and this process has commenced. The present structure will continue until the review has been completed by March 2008.

A weekly child protection (safeguarding children) meeting is held for all staff in the emergency department, to review children who have been treated in the department, and is well attended.

Looking forward - 2007/8

The action plan includes:

- Ensuring our staff support / training strategy is rolled out across and identifies ways of evaluating this.
- Undertake 'Training Needs Analysis' in partnership with the training and development team by March 2008
- Continue to work in partnership with local safeguarding children's boards
- Report for year ending March 2008 will contain quantitative data regarding number of staff provided with training as a proportion of staff employed.
- Audit information, in line with the Laming recommendations, will be available in the annual report. Islington LSCB is issuing revised guidelines, which will inform our practice.
- Named Nurse, Named Midwife and Named Doctor will discuss changes and responsibilities.

In conclusion

Since the last report (March 2007) we continue to fulfil all our statutory safeguarding children obligations. Training opportunities continue to increase and staff confidence and competence along with this. Access to Level 1 training is now being extended as a mandatory update for all staff who work at the Whittington.

We need to continue to develop and maintain robust systems to safeguard children by having competent and confident staff, clinical & non- clinical, managers and lead professionals alike, who know how to identify abuse, know what to do with the information and who and how to contact support and advice. Continued training and support of staff will achieve this.

Jo Carroll
Named Nurse for Child Protection
Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children
September 2007