



Meeting title	Trust Board – public meeting	Date: 24 May 2024
Report title	Safeguarding Adults and Children Annual Declaration 2023/2024	Agenda item: 7
Executive lead	Sarah Wilding Chief Nurse & Director of Allied Health Professionals	
Report authors	Linda Salt, Interim Head of Children’s Safeguarding, and Therese Renwick, Head of Vulnerable Adults	
Executive summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whittington Health NHS Trust (WH) is committed to achieving and maintaining compliance with national regulation, standards, and guidance to ensure that children, young people, and vulnerable adults are cared for in a safe, secure, and caring environment• The Chief Nurse and Director of Allied Health Professionals holds the position as Executive Lead for safeguarding children and adults. The Head of Safeguarding Children and Head of Vulnerable Adults report directly to the Chief Nurse• A Bi-Annual Safeguarding Report is produced which is reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee, Quality Governance Committee and Quality Assurance Committee.• Whittington Health is an active member of two local Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships in Haringey and Islington. The Section 11 (Children Act 2004) audits into safeguarding compliance across the Trust are completed, as required.• The Trust is a member of the local Safeguarding Adults’ Boards in Haringey and Islington. The safeguarding adult partnership audit tool is completed for both Boroughs.• The WH Joint Safeguarding Committee meets quarterly to discuss all matters pertaining to safeguarding, domestic abuse, use of Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, the Prevent strategy and monitors Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews/Rapid review/Safeguarding Adult Review and Domestic Homicide Review recommendations. A new post, Head of Vulnerable Adults, has been created to reflect the increasing awareness of the safeguarding adult agenda, and will initially be focussing on creating mental health and domestic abuse pathways within the	

	<p>Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WH operates a Safer Recruitment Policy to ensure the workforce is appropriately safe to discharge its safeguarding responsibility. • A revised Safeguarding Allegations Policy was launched in October 2023, to ensure a robust process is in place for allegations made by patients, families and/or carers and other professionals, against Trust staff.
Purpose:	Approve the annual statement of assurance
Recommendation(s)	<p>The Board of Directors is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> read and understand the Trust's responsibility for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults be assured that the Trust continues to follow statutory requirements (Children's Act 2004, Local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures and Pan London Safeguarding Children Procedures) to protect children at risk of abuse and neglect be assured that the Trust follows its statutory requirements in relation to the Care Act 2014 and Mental Capacity Act 2005 working in partnership with local and our neighbouring social care services
Risk Register or Board Assurance Framework	Board Assurance Framework risk quality entry 1 - Failure to provide care which is 'outstanding' in being consistently safe, caring, responsive, effective, or well-led and which provides a positive experience for our patients may result in poorer patient experience, harm, a loss of income, an adverse impact upon staff retention and damage to organisational reputation
Report history	Annual declaration
Appendices	None

Annual Safeguarding Declaration 2023-2024

1. SUMMARY DECLARATION

- 1.1. Whittington Health NHS Trust (WH) is committed to achieving and maintaining compliance with national safeguarding standards and guidance to ensure that children, young people, and adults are cared for in a safe, secure, and caring environment.
- 1.2. The WH Safeguarding Children team works closely with the Safeguarding Adults lead to ensure a collaborative 'Think Family' approach exists to safeguard the entire population the Trust serves. This includes fully embedding strategies linked to protection from domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and adhering to the Prevent strategy in protecting vulnerable groups from radicalisation. This approach also includes a focus on transition from child to adulthood which is often a period of increased vulnerability for young people.
- 1.3 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance to the organisation. Their welfare is embedded across every part of the Trust and in every aspect of our work. The Trust has controls and arrangements in place through audit, review and quality improvement led by skilled and competent named professionals, supported and challenged by the Trust Board and the NCL ICB.
- 1.4 The Board Director responsible for safeguarding is the Chief Nurse and Director of Allied Health Professionals. Joint Safeguarding Committee meetings are held quarterly with accountability to the Trust Board through to the Quality Assurance Committee. The committee reviews the Trust's responsibility across children and vulnerable adults.

2. SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

- 2.1. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are carried out on all staff commencing employment. Staff working with children and/or vulnerable adults require an enhanced level of check.
- 2.2. A Designated Officer (currently the Head of Safeguarding Children post holder) is employed to investigate and advise regarding safety within the workforce.
- 2.3. The Designated Officer works closely with Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) in Local Authorities Children's Social Care to escalate concerns regarding staff behaviour in respect of potential risks posed by their behaviour in relation to their employment.

3. POLICIES

- 3.1. The Trust has child protection and safeguarding adult's policies and systems which are reviewed regularly. These are overseen by the WH Quality Assurance Committee and Joint Safeguarding Committee, both of which report into the Trust Board.
- 3.2. The Trust has a specific process in place for following up children and young people who miss appointments and systems for identifying children where there are safeguarding concerns. A policy called 'Was Not Brought' Policy supports staff in this area.
- 3.3. Safeguarding training is a priority for all staff, with various levels of training depending on their role. Training is provided in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Intercollegiate Document (2019) and the Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff (2018). They are designed to ensure staff possess the correct knowledge, skills, and competencies to carry out their duties in relation to safeguarding children and adults.

4. ASSURANCE

- 4.1. The Chief Nurse holds the position as Executive Lead for safeguarding children and adults and the Heads of Safeguarding report to the Chief Nurse.
- 4.2. A Safeguarding Annual Report is produced which is reviewed by the Trust Board. This report covers both children and vulnerable adults.
- 4.3. Whittington Health is an active member of two local safeguarding children's partnerships in Haringey and Islington. The Section 11 audits into safeguarding compliance across the Trust are completed as required.
- 4.4. The Trust is a member of the local safeguarding adult's partnerships in Haringey and Islington and attends the annual Board challenge sessions.
- 4.5. The WH Joint Safeguarding Committee meets quarterly to discuss all matters pertaining to safeguarding, and the committee monitors external case review recommendations to ensure they are implemented and embedded in the WH safeguarding processes.,

5. DECLARATION

- 5.1. This summary provides the Trust Board with assurance that the trust is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to safeguarding children, young people, and adults in its care.