

ITEM: 09/081
Doc: 10

Meeting: Trust Board
Date: 20 May 2009

Title: **Care Quality Commission report into the action taken by health bodies in relation to the care of Baby P**

Executive Summary: Attached is the CQC report, which was published on 13 May 2009. The Whittington was one of the four trusts inspected by the then Healthcare Commission in January 2009, as Baby P had been treated here in December 2006, following which he was made the subject of a child protection plan.

The report is divided into a number of themed sections, looking at different aspects of his case. The Whittington is specifically mentioned in the following sections:

Summary of the actions of health professionals in relation to the case of Baby P

Having reviewed the actions taken by Whittington staff when Baby P was seen in the paediatric emergency clinic on 11 December 2006 and subsequently admitted to the paediatric ward, the CQC considers that appropriate actions were taken at this time (page 15)

Communication

The report notes that joint review of cases, with a doctor and a social worker working as a team is an excellent model of practice. This is the model that exists at the Whittington in partnership with Islington social workers. (page 25)

Staffing

There were no staffing or recruitment difficulties associated with children's services noted at the Whittington (page 27)

Training

The report comments on the separate training the Whittington holds for nurses and midwives, and suggests that it would be beneficial for this to be combined so that staff develop an understanding of each other's roles (page 29). This has, however, been a deliberate decision to train these staff groups separately, as the midwives have very specific training needs, over and above those of nursing staff, in terms of dealing with vulnerable women and unborn children.

Safeguarding supervision

There is no formal structure of clinical supervision for the child protection team (page 30). Work is being undertaken with Islington Local Safeguarding Children Board to arrange this for all staff working in child protection roles; Whittington staff currently have access to monthly peer support meetings at the Tavistock Hospital

Child Protection awareness

The report notes that there are clear and robust arrangements for child protection at the Whittington (page 30)

Governance

Child protection work is overseen by the trust child protection committee, chaired by the director of nursing & clinical development, which reports to the clinical governance committee. There are also six monthly reports to Trust Board (page 32)

Conclusions

None of the conclusions on page 35/36 of the report refer specifically to the Whittington; indeed, the report notes that the failings in governance that were identified did not apply to the Whittington.

An update on three of the five recommendations (1, 4 and 5) was reviewed by the Audit Committee, after the information was sent to CQC ahead of the publication of the report. It was difficult, however, to provide much detail about the actions, as the trust did not, at that time, have access to the report to be able to place the recommendations in context. With the availability of the report, the recommendations will now be reviewed in detail at the next child protection committee.

Action: For information

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

Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance

Lead: All directors

Reference:

Children Act
Working Together to Safeguard Children

Compliance with Healthcare Commission Core/Developmental Standards

Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

Reference:

C2