

## Board Assurance Statement on Safeguarding Children September 2009

The Board of the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust has reviewed the arrangements in place across the hospital for the safeguarding of children, following the publication in July 2009 of the Care Quality Commission review into safeguarding in the NHS in England.

The Board has received specific assurance about the following areas:

1. The trust meets its statutory responsibilities in relation to Criminal Records Bureau checks
2. Child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust. They include a process for following up children who miss outpatient appointments and a system for identifying and referring children about whom there are safeguarding concerns. The Whittington is working as a pilot site with NHS London to develop an electronic system within the Emergency Department to provide automatic alerts for any child who is subject to a child protection plan in a local borough.
3. Training for all staff is managed and provided by the named nurse for child protection, and the named doctor, who is also supported by another consultant paediatrician. Training is provided at every induction programme and on all annual mandatory updates for clinical staff. Attendance is recorded on the electronic staff record. A review of the trust's training strategy for child protection has begun and will be completed by the end of 2009.
4. The trust has a named nurse, named doctor and named midwife for child protection. They are clear about their roles and have professional accountability to the director of nursing and clinical development. The trust child protection committee meets every two months, chaired by the director of nursing and clinical development; it includes representatives of all key clinical departments and external partners, including local PCTS and social services.
5. the Board level executive lead for safeguarding children is the director of nursing and clinical development. The board receives an update on safeguarding children every six months; progress on any serious case reviews is reported at every trust board meeting.

**Deborah Wheeler**  
**Director of Nursing and Clinical Development**