

Safeguarding Children declaration December 2009

The Whittington hospital works hard to ensure that all patients including children are cared for in a safe, secure and caring environment. As a result a number of safeguarding children arrangements are in place. These include:

The Whittington Hospital meets statutory requirements in relation to Criminal Records Bureau checks. **All staff** employed at the Trust undergo a CRB check prior to employment and those working with children undergo an enhanced level of assessment.

All the trust child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust and are reviewed on a regular basis by the Trust Clinical Governance Committee. The last review occurred in March 2009 and next review is scheduled for March 2010.

The trust has a process in place for following up children who miss outpatient appointments within any specialty to ensure that their care, and ultimately their health, is not affected in any way. In addition the Trust has a system in place for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns.

All staff have undertaken relevant safeguarding training and this is regularly reviewed to ensure it is up to date. The trust has a robust training strategy in place for delivering safeguarding training.

- 85% of all staff are up to date on level one training (target is 80%)
- 83% of eligible staff are up to date on level two training (target 80%)
- 87% of eligible staff have attended a level three education session within the last year (target 80%)

The last training review took place in June 2009 and will be reviewed again in February 2010.

The Trust has named professionals who lead on issues in relation to safeguarding. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support and training to undertake their roles, which includes close contact with other social and health care organisations. There are three professionals, which are broken down by discipline as follows:

- Named nurse: full time (1wte)
- Named doctor: one designated PA per week (from 1wte consultant)
- Named midwife: 0.25 of a post (from 1wte matron)
- Administration support: 0.25wte

The named doctor and named midwife are both full time employees of the trust, who have a specific part of their role designated for safeguarding children.

The director of nursing and clinical development is the executive lead for safeguarding

children, and chairs the trust child protection committee. This reports to the trust clinical governance committee and ultimately to the trust board on safeguarding children.

The trust board takes the issue of safeguarding extremely seriously and receives an annual report on safeguarding children issues. The last annual report was presented to the board in June 2009, and the Board paper relating to this can be found at www.whittington.nhs.uk under “about us” and “trust board”. Safeguarding children was also discussed at the board meetings in May and September 2009. The trust has robust audit programmes to assure the board that safeguarding systems and processes are working. This is discussed with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards for Islington and Haringey, of which the director of nursing and clinical development is a member.

Rob Larkman
Chief Executive