

## **NHS Islington and NHS Haringey Provider Alliance**

### **Child Protection Service Annual Report (April 2010 – March 2011)**

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#### **SUMMARY**

This is the annual report providing an overview of NHS Islington and NHS Haringey Provider Alliance child protection arrangements and key developments in the period April 2010 to March 2011. The report includes sections on the following areas:-

- Governance
- Quality and Assurance
- Policy
- Practice

## **GOVERNANCE**

NHS Islington 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. The total number of professionals in these roles is as follows:

Named Nurse = 1.0 WTE

Named Doctor = 0.3 WTE

Administration support for named professionals = 1.0 WTE

The Named Nurse leads a team of two child protection advisors, a total of 1.6 WTE, who in conjunction with the Named Nurse deliver supervision, training, advice and support to staff on child protection matters in line with NHS Islington policy. At the end of December 2010, the 0.6 WTE child protection advisor left to take up a post nearer her home, the post was successfully recruited to in March 2011. At the end of March 2011 the 1.0 WTE child protection advisor retired and recruitment to this vacancy is planned.

The Joint Director – Children’s Community Services is the lead director for Safeguarding Children and chairs the quarterly NHS Islington & NHS Haringey Provider Alliance Child Protection Committee which reports to the board on Safeguarding Children. The NHS Islington Provider arm is represented at the NHS Islington & NHS Haringey Provider Alliance Child Protection Committee by the Named Nurse and Named Doctor for child protection.

The Joint Director – Children’s Community Services is a member of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB), and representation at various ISCB subgroups and steering groups is provided by the Named Nurse and Named Doctor. The Named Nurse is also a member of various Islington Children’s Social Care task groups/committees.

## **QUALITY and ASSURANCE**

### **Audit**

NHS Islington has robust audit programmes to assure it that safeguarding systems and processes are working. These are reported regularly to the NHS Islington & NHS Haringey Provider Alliance Child Protection Committee which meets quarterly and is chaired by the Joint Director – Children’s Community Services who is the lead director for Safeguarding Children. Two audits were carried out by the child protection service in the period covered by this annual report.

In December 2010 the Child Protection Service completed an audit entitled a “Re-audit of healthcare professionals’ attendance and contribution to child protection conferences” (GPs, health visitors and school health advisors), originally audited in 2007. Data was provided by examination of minutes of all child protection conferences held in Islington over a 3 month period. The re-audit in 2010 showed that response to child protection conference invitations had improved across all disciplines, with an improvement noted in attendance for health visitors and school health advisors. GP attendance had remained the same since the previous audit however there had been an increase in the number of reports provided for conferences.

In March 2011 the annual audit of the quality of child protection supervision provided to staff was carried out. All 126 staff receiving mandatory 3 monthly individual or group child protection supervision, provided by the Named Nurse and child protection advisors, were asked to complete an anonymised questionnaire designed to elicit their views on the quality of child protection supervision, with an overall response rate of 57%. The response rate from the group of staff receiving individual supervision was 65%, whilst that receiving group supervision had a response rate of 52%. The responses showed that staff continue to value child protection supervision and find it an empowering and supportive process. An audit report will be produced by the Named Nurse.

The quality of NHS Islington Level 1 and Level 2 child protection training is closely monitored by the Named Nurse with all attendees being required to complete an evaluation form. NHS Islington Level 1 and Level 2 child protection training was also included in a wider borough evaluation of the quality of child protection training provided by partner agencies in Islington. This research was commissioned by the Islington Safeguarding Children Board from Loughborough University and as yet the final report has not been made available.

### **Service Outcomes**

The Child Protection Services is measured against 2 service outcomes which are reported on quarterly to the NHS Islington & NHS Haringey Provider Alliance Child Protection Committee. The outcomes are:

- The percentage of clinical staff who have received 3 monthly child protection supervision – the average achieved for 2010/2011 was **83%**.
- The percentage of reports for medical assessment of children and young people suspected of abuse or neglect that are posted to the referrer within 3 weeks of the examination – the average achieved for 2010/2011 was **82%**.

### **Safeguarding Children Declaration**

The NHS Islington Provider Safeguarding Children Declaration was last updated in December 2010, and is currently a requirement of NHS London.

### **POLICY**

All NHS Islington Child Protection policies and systems are up to date and robust and are reviewed on a regular basis, in accordance with the governance arrangements for policy development and review that are overseen by the NHS Islington Board. All NHS Islington staff, including independent contractors, have access to and work in accordance with the London Child Protection Procedures, 2010. The following list details the current internal child protection policies<sup>1</sup>:

- **The Child Protection Supervision Policy for NHS Islington Directly Managed Staff** which was reviewed in June 2009 and will next be reviewed in 2011.
- **The Child Sexual Abuse Referral Pathway for Children and Young People** which was reviewed in April 2009 and will next be reviewed in 2011.
- **The Overarching Child Protection Operational Policy for NHS Islington and NHS Haringey Provider Alliance** which was last reviewed in January 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> Following the formation of Whittington Health, child protection professionals from the three legacy organisations have begun work on reviewing all existing policies and creating Whittington Health child protection policies and guidance

- **The Child Protection and Safeguarding Training Strategy for NHS Islington** which was completed in 2010.

In line with recommendations for practice guidance made by NHS London, **Guidance for Non-Attendance and No Access Visits** was also written in March 2010.

## **PRACTICE**

### **Safeguarding Children Improvement Team (SIT) visit**

The NHS London Safeguarding Children Improvement Team carried out a two day visit to Islington in May 2010. NHS Islington was one of the Provider Trusts that participated in the visit which found overall that safeguarding was well embedded in practice, with high levels of commitment and partnership. Particular areas highlighted by the SIT team in relation to NHS Islington are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Concerns were raised by some staff in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) regarding the threshold for acceptance by Islington Children's Social Care of CAMHS referrals for children / young people where concerns existed about possible emotional abuse. In response to this, two meetings were held between the Named Nurse for Child Protection and the CAMHS manager whose team had the most concerns, in order that case examples could be discussed. The outcome has been a significant increase in CAMHS staff contacting the child protection nurses for advice and support, and no further concerns have been raised by CAMHS regarding the threshold for referrals to Islington Children's Social Care.

The SIT team highlighted that in some authorities health visitors are effectively deployed to work as part of the Children's Social Care assessment structure. In response to this a Specialist Health Visitor was seconded to Islington Children's Social Care for a pilot project of 3 days a week for a six month period from 01.10.2010. An evaluation of the pilot project is planned.

Feedback from the SIT team highlighted a need to strengthen the governance structure for the NHS Islington Named Nurse role. In response to this, the management arrangements for the Named Nurse were reviewed and changed so that the Named Nurse now directly reports to the Joint Director – Children's Community Services<sup>2</sup>. She is now a community services directorate management team member which allows her to be part of the assurance processes and performance monitoring at this level.

### **Announced Ofsted inspection**

It is anticipated that an Announced Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After services is likely to be carried out in Islington in 2011. In preparation for this, a robust review of service evidence is being conducted, led by the Designated Nurse for Child Protection.

### **Child A Serious Case Review**

In the summer of 2009, a four month old child died in Islington from unexplained injuries. The serious case review into his death has been concluded and learning disseminated,

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<sup>2</sup> The Named Nurse currently directly reports to the Director of Operations - Women Children & Families, Whittington Health

but the publication of the Executive Summary will be delayed until after the conclusion of the trial of both parents. NHS Islington staff were interviewed by the police and may be called to give evidence at the trial. The trial is likely to provoke media interest and was due to commence in mid May 2011, but has been postponed with no current information on a rescheduled commencement date.

### **Child W Serious Case Review**

As a result of the death of a ten month old child from suspected forced feeding in Waltham Forest in March 2010, a decision was made by Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board to undertake a Serious Case Review. Prior to the death of the baby, the parents and three older siblings had resided in Islington for a number of years, and as such NHS Islington was one of several agencies required to provide an Individual Management Review (IMR) of services provided to the family during the period that they were known to have lived in Islington.

The NHS Islington Provider Services IMR was co-authored by the Named Doctor and Named Nurse and was submitted to the serious case review subgroup of Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board within the required timescale. The Serious Case Review Executive Summary cannot be published until completion of criminal proceedings. Police charges have been brought against both parents and the trial is due to begin in mid September, with likely media interest. NHS Islington staff have been interviewed by the police and it is anticipated that staff may be called to give evidence at the trial.

Progress on action plans has been reported to the NHS Islington & NHS Haringey Provider Alliance Child Protection Committee and monitored by the Quality and Assurance Subgroup of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board.

### **Child B and Child C Serious Case Review**

In mid February 2011 two siblings aged 10 years and 8 years were killed in Southwark whilst in the care of their father. The mother and both children were Islington residents and had received services from both the Whittington Hospital and community health services. A decision was made by Islington Safeguarding Children Board to undertake a Serious Case Review into the deaths of the children and Whittington Health was one of the agencies required to provide an Individual Management Review (IMR) of services provided to the family.

The Whittington Health IMR will be co-authored by the Islington Named Doctor and Named Nurse. The timescale for completion of the serious case review and submission of reports to Ofsted and the Department for Education is mid August 2011. The Health Overview IMR will be co-authored by the Islington Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse. The police investigation into the deaths of the children is ongoing and some community health staff have been interviewed.

Progress on action plans will be reported to the Whittington Health Child Protection Committee and monitored by the Quality and Assurance Subgroup of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board.

### **Training**

NHS Islington Child Protection Service continues to provide bi monthly in house Level 1 training and monthly Level 2 training for both directly managed staff and independent

contractors. The Child Protection and Safeguarding Training Strategy for NHS Islington (2010) provides clear guidance on training pathways.

All staff have access to relevant safeguarding training and this is regularly reviewed to ensure it is up to date. Staff requiring training at Level 3 can access a wide range of opportunities from the Islington "One Workforce" training brochure which includes both the Islington Safeguarding Children Board and the Integrated Working training programmes for the Islington Children's Partnership. Training sessions are evaluated and attendance monitored by the Named Nurse.

Attendance at child protection training is recorded on the OLM (Oracle Learning Management) tool as part of the electronic staff record in conjunction with the Learning and Development Team of NHS Islington and NHS Haringey.

By the end of December 2010, **75%** of eligible directly managed staff were up to date with NHS Islington Level 1 training, **78%** were up to date with NHS Islington Level 2 training, and **65%** were up to date with Level 3 training. Between 01.01.2011 and 31.03.2011 a further **63** staff attended Level 1 training and **62** staff attended Level 2 training.

A review of Level 1 and Level 2 training presentations is planned by the named professionals and child protection advisors to ensure that the training content reflects the updated guidance contained within the document "Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and competencies for healthcare staff" published in September 2010 by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### **Supervision**

Mandatory **individual** 3 monthly child protection supervision is provided by the Named Nurse and child protection advisors in line with local policy to the following staff groups: Health Visitors; School Health Advisors; the supervisor and nurses from the Family Nurse Partnership team; the Designated Nurse and Health Advisors from the Children Looked After team; the specialist health visitors.

Mandatory **group** 3 monthly child protection supervision is provided by the Named Nurse and child protection advisors in line with local policy to the following staff groups: the skill mix members of the health visiting and school health teams; the Children's Community Nursing Service.

Attendance at supervision is monitored by the Named Nurse and child protection advisors and line managers are informed of non-attendance. An annual audit is carried out of supervisees' experience of receiving child protection supervision.

### **Advice and support**

All NHS Islington directly managed staff and independent contractors, and all NHS Haringey Adult Provider Services directly managed staff from September 2010, are able to contact the child protection service during working hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) for consultation and advice on the following issues, and will be directed to the appropriate member of staff:

- Consultation on cases of concern including complex child in need cases

- Medical opinion – medical assessment only for children who live in the borough of Islington or attend a mainstream or special school in Islington
- Support in completing a referral to Children’s Social Care
- Preparation for and support at meetings such as child protection conferences and strategy meetings
- Preparation for and support at court attendance
- Preparation for and support during police interviews

## **CONCLUSION**

In preparation for the formation of the new organisation, an ICO Clinical Governance Workstream Safeguarding Child Subgroup has met several times, chaired by the Joint Director – Children’s Community Services. The purpose of the subgroup is to map existing child protection service provision in the legacy organisations and agree a work plan moving forward to the new organisation.

From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 the following organisations will join together to form the Whittington Health NHS Trust:

- Whittington NHS Hospital Trust
- NHS Islington and NHS Haringey Provider Services Alliance

During this period of transition it will be important that staff remain clear about which local child protection policy and guidance is to be followed. Each organisation currently has in place an agreed child protection operational policy/guidelines; training strategy/guidelines; staff supervision policy. Work will commence in April 2011 to create a single Whittington Health NHS Trust child protection operational policy which will incorporate guidance on training and supervision.

Until this work has been completed staff will continue to follow their existing local organisational guidance and a position statement to this effect will be widely disseminated to staff.