

## **Whittington Health Adult Safeguarding Update**

**November 2011**

### **1. Introduction**

This paper outlines the progress with arrangements that Whittington Health has made to support and develop the adult safeguarding agenda since becoming an ICO on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. It covers the areas of governance, staffing, training, quality and assurance, policy and practice.

### **2. Context**

The importance of the adult safeguarding is developing rapidly with more focus on what health and social care agencies could and should achieve in terms of protecting vulnerable adults. It is now accepted that it is equally important as child protection, with similar systems, processes, policies and monitoring arrangements. Whittington Health is committed to responding to this agenda by working closely with our partners in health, local authorities and the third sector.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1 Governance**

Prior to the ICO being established Whittington Hospital had an Adults at Risk Group that provided oversight of all work relating to vulnerable adults including adult safeguarding issues. Haringey and Islington community services dealt with these issues via their clinical governance committee(s). All organisations were represented on the relevant adult safeguarding boards and sub groups convened by the local authorities.

#### **3.2 Staffing**

NHS Haringey had a full time dedicated Adult Safeguarding Lead, part of the health team who carried out all the training, advised on DOLS/Mental capacity issues, supports staff on individual cases and lead on serious cases reviews.

The Whittington Hospital did not have a full time adult safeguarding lead, but a number of staff carried out the responsibilities as part of their other roles, including: a site manager who leads on and carries out DOLS and mental

capacity assessments, the discharge matron who reports and liaises with Islington Social Services about individual safeguarding cases and a Victims of Violence Project Manager (fixed term post paid for by London Borough of Islington). Training at the Whittington is provided by Islington Social Services Adult Safeguarding Unit staff.

Adult Safeguarding at NHS Islington was provided by a jointly funded health and social care team managed by Islington Social Services,

### **3.3 Quality and Assurance**

All organisations contributed to audits led by the requirements of the Local Authority Safeguarding Boards. In addition internal audit work was undertaken within NHS Haringey to assess the effectiveness of training and support from the lead nurse.

All organisations made adult safeguarding training a mandatory priority for clinical staff at Level 1 with training uptake increasing year on year, however Whittington Hospital still requires additional numbers of staff to receive mandatory training and key staff to receive level two training, which provides a greater knowledge and understanding.

### **3.4 Policy**

All organisations had effective safeguarding policies in line with national and borough guidance which were regularly reviewed and updated and the Whittington Hospital and NHS Islington's policies were successfully assessed for compliance by Islington local authority.

### **3.5 Practice**

Staff awareness of adult safeguarding issues improved year on year in all organisations with an increase in safeguarding alerts made to the relevant local authorities.

## **4. Progress**

### **4.1 Governance**

A new adults at risk steering committee for the ICO was established with the first meeting taking place in July 2011 and meeting quarterly thereafter and currently reporting into the Patient Safety Committee. Membership and terms of reference have been agreed, see Appendix 1, and an annual work plan is in development. The learning disabilities group is being re-established with a meeting taking place later in November and a bid to the Burdett Trust to improve care of people with dementia has been submitted with the outcome being known in December.

The organisation is represented on both Haringey and Islington Adult Safeguarding Boards by the Deputy Director of Nursing and Patient Experience who also has just taken over the chair the Adult Safeguarding Policy Sub Group in Islington. The current Lead Nurse Safeguarding Adults for Haringey chairs the Training Sub Group in Haringey and the clinical service manager for specialist nursing is a member of the Quality Audit and Assurance sub group in Islington

### **4.2 Staffing**

It is proposed to have a Lead Nurse role for the entire ICO at a senior level. This post will appear in the organisational change paper for the Nursing Directorate due to be launched shortly.

### **4.3 Quality and Assurance**

Progress has been made in a number of areas:

- The Self Assessment Assurance Framework, the new safeguarding adults' framework from the Department of Health was completed and submitted in August 2011.
- Members of the Adults at Risk group are undertaking visits to other Trusts who excel at adult safeguarding reporting, including Guy's and St Thomas', and UCLH
- Meetings arranged with senior nursing management and governance managers to establish a new system within the Trust to collate all safeguarding adults' alerts. The alerts for both Local Authorities will be via Datix, the NHS incident reporting and risk system. Once there is parity across the previous three Trusts, data analysis and interrogation will be streamlined.
- Meetings with Islington and Haringey Councils corporate and performance teams are under way to seek ways of sharing data.
- Whittington Health has established training days with Her Majesty's Coroner on health service input in coronial procedure.

In addition to the above, the Trust has been involved in national safeguarding adults work including:

- a) Writing the second module of the Leadership Development Programme, Safeguarding Adults: Risk Management and the Legislative Framework.

- b) Mental Capacity Act Pathways in conjunction with key leading experts.
- c) Contribution to the Prevent agenda: Prevent Steering Group. This is a national agenda for the NHS and counter-terrorism.

### **4.4 Policy**

A new safeguarding adult's policy compliant with the Pan-London Procedures has been agreed across the ICO as well as a policy for appropriately managing the adult safeguarding referrals of patients with pressure ulcers/pressure damage.

### **4.5 Practice**

Staff across the ICO are becoming more aware of adult safeguarding and are reporting or seeking advice more often about potential incidents. However, in order to embed the correct principles into every day practice across the ICO the following actions need to take place:-

- Increase the volume of level one mandatory training so that there is a trust-wide understanding of what constitutes a potential safe guarding adult incident, and how to report it
- Increase the volume of level two training so that key staff have a greater level of understanding and can advise and support others
- Increase training and understanding of mental capacity and DOLS
- Review and update the systems for reporting potential adult safeguarding incidents on the Datix Risk Management System, so that it is used consistently across the ICO, and useful reports are generated and acted on
- Share the reports and findings from the local boroughs data more widely with relevant clinical staff and act on its findings
- Consider amending the assessment section of patients documentation, so there is a prompt to consider any adults at risk issues, which could also include learning disabilities and dementia

## **5. Conclusion**

Whittington Health has made good progress in addressing the requirements it needs in place to ensure good practice in relation to safeguarding of vulnerable adults. Further work will be undertaken to embed good systems and processes for reporting and more training will be delivered to improve the knowledge and skills of staff in this area which will increase awareness and appropriate safeguarding alerts being made.

## Adults at Risk Steering Committee

### Terms of Reference

#### 1. Constitution

The Adults at Risk Steering Committee is a sub-committee of and reports to the Patient Safety Committee. It provides assurance to them on all matters relating to adults at risk (formerly known as vulnerable adults). It covers adults at risk across all areas of Whittington Health, including the hospital and community settings in both Haringey and Islington. The following groups/work streams report to the committee:

- Adult Safeguarding, including Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS) and Mental Capacity issues
- Maternity adult safeguarding
- Care of patients with Learning Disabilities
- Dementia care
- Prison Healthcare
- Victims of Violence Project

#### 2. Membership of the committee

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Director of Nursing and Patient Experience ( Chair)           | Bronagh Scott     |
| Deputy Director of Nursing and Patient Experience             | Susan Tokley      |
| Assistant Director of Nursing and Governance                  | Veronica Shaw     |
| District Nursing Clinical Service Manager, Community Services | Sarah Hayes       |
| Head of Nursing   | Kara Blackwell    |
| Assistant Director of Education                               | Lisa Smith        |
| Clinical Director/Consultant                                  | Clarissa Murdoch  |
| Head of Allied Health Professionals                           | Adrienne Simons   |
| Matron for acute care   | Julie Teahan      |
| Matron for care of older people                               | Tina Jegede       |
| Matron for Discharge  | Lynne Hackney     |
| Adult Safeguarding lead for maternity service                 | Heather Jenkins   |
| Site Practitioner/ Lead for DOLS and Mental Capacity          | Kamilla Bessessar |
| Practice Development Nurse – Surgery                          | Emmeline Closier  |
| Tissue Viability Nurse Acute to alternate attendance          | Jane Preece       |
| Tissue Viability Nurse Community to alternate attendance      | Claire Davies     |
| Outpatients Sister  | Tara Egan         |
| Emergency Department Sister                                   | Fiona Long        |
| Victims of Violence Project Lead                              | Nigel Chapelle    |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Asst Service Manager, Islington Social Work Team           | Renee Corrie     |
| Lead Nurse Adult Safeguarding, Haringey Community Services | Martin Grant     |
| Acute Learning Disabilities Liaison Nurse                  | Hellen Odiembo   |
| Islington Local Authority                                  | Jeanie Stewart   |
| Haringey Local Authority                                   | Duncan Patterson |

### 3. Purpose of the Committee

The Adults at Risk Steering Committee's key purpose is to ensure that systems and processes are in place to enable adults at risk to be recognised and appropriately managed across the trust.

It will also ensure that all relevant external guidance is followed.

### 4. Objectives of the Committee

- To ensure that there are policies and procedures in place both internally and externally to the organisation to prevent and recognise adult abuse and to safeguard adults at risk.
- To monitor all allegations of adult abuse reported within the Trust and to ensure they are appropriately reported and reviewed, identifying patterns and themes that may emerge.
- To review serious allegations and incidents to ensure that the policy has been followed and that any learning can be shared across the Trust and with external agencies.
- To agree and monitor awareness raising, training and education, linking into the annual Trust Training Needs Analysis Plan and also to develop a training policy specifically for safeguarding adults.
- To have responsibility for communicating national and local policy changes throughout the Trust.
- To ensure that those patients with a learning disability or dementia who access acute care have a safe patient pathway.
- To provide assurance to comply with the CQC's regulations and outcomes
- To provide an annual report to the Patient Safety Committee.
- To receive six-monthly reports from the sub-committees that report to the committee.

- To work closely with local councils and other external agencies as appropriate and to provide representation on the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards for Haringey and Islington.
- To interrogate data from internal audits and address trends as necessary.

## **5. Meetings**

Frequency: 3 monthly

Quorum: Chair or deputy plus five others

Secretariat: Deborah Crawley

## **6. Approval**

Terms of Reference approved by: Adults at Risk Steering Committee

Date: July 2011

Review Date: July 2013