

**Trust Board Meeting****ITEM: 7**  
**PAPER: C****DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012**TITLE:** Child Protection Annual Report April 2011 – March 2012**SPONSOR:** Bronagh Scott Director of Nursing and Patient Experience**REPORT FROM:** Jo Carroll, Named Nurse Child Protection, Cressida Zielinski, Named Nurse Child Protection**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To Receive and Approve the Report**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This is the first Annual Report for Child Protection since the three legacy organisations merged to create Whittington Health and provides an overview of Whittington Health's child protection arrangements and key developments in the period April 2011 to March 2012.

Since becoming an Integrated Care Organisation, Whittington Health has streamlined the child protection (CP) functions of the Named Nurses who now work as one child protection team.

**1. Governance:**

- The Trust meets the requirements for named professionals as laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children ECFS (2010) and meets its statutory responsibilities in relation to Criminal Records Bureau checks.
- The Trust's executive lead for child protection is the Director of Nursing and Patient Experience.
- The Named Nurses in Islington, Haringey and the Whittington Hospital provide supervision to specialist child protection advisors and to front line health visiting, school nursing, special school nursing and Family Nurse Partnership staff.
- The Named Nurses and Named Doctors provide training and advice to WH staff and to independent contractors in Islington.
- The Director of Operations Women Children and Families is a member of Islington and Haringey Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB).

**2. Quality and Assurance**

- The Whittington Health Child Protection Committee meets bi-monthly and is chaired by the Director of Nursing and Patient Experience. Attendance includes the Designated professionals and representatives from the London Boroughs of Haringey and Islington.
- The CP Committee monitors information from LSCBs, the Haringey Joint Area Review, the WH risk register, other reports and actions and compliance with national requirements for staff supervision and audit.
- The CP service is monitored by the use of a RAG rated assurance scorecard which includes training. Due to ongoing difficulties obtaining accurate training attendance from the WH Electronic Staff Records System, there is uncertainty about the percentage of staff up to date with CP training.
- WH participated in Haringey CQC/OFSTED, Islington Peer Review of social care and health and NHS London SIT visits. Action plans have been completed as appropriate. Preparation is under way for an inspection of Haringey children's services in 2012.

- An unannounced Ofsted inspection of Islington's Safeguarding and Looked After services concluded that services were good with outstanding features.
3. Policy
    - Work is ongoing to develop overarching Whittington Health CP Policies.
    - Legacy organisations continue to work to their individual CP policies and procedures.
  4. Practice
    - A bi-monthly report on all Serious Case Reviews (SCR) is reviewed by the CP Committee and Trust Board and progress on action plans are monitored.
    - The Trust were not involved in any new SCRs between April 2011-March 2012.
    - Child B and Child C SCR Executive Summary was published in early 2012 following the conclusion of the criminal case.
    - During the autumn of 2011, WH staff appeared as witnesses in criminal proceedings regarding two previous SCRs on Child A and Child W.
    - There have been a number of Freedom of Information requests regarding Peter Connolly (SCR Haringey 2008).
  5. WH Future CP Plans 2012-2013
    - The development of a WH wide approach to safeguarding children supported by policies and procedures.
    - The CP team will work together to ensure CP awareness is raised throughout the organisation through the delivery of high quality training and supervision.
    - Progress will be monitored through audit, accurate data collection and Board assurance.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** For Noting and Approval

**APPENDICES:** None

**DECLARATION**

In completing this report, I confirm that the implications associated with the proposed action shown above have been considered – any exceptions are reported in the Supporting Information:

This report relates to the Following Trust Strategic Objectives –

- Deliver effective services that improve outcomes
- Improve the health of the local people
- Change the way we work by building a culture of innovation and continuous improvement

And complies with the Trusts requirement for CQC registration in relation to assuring the Board of the Trust's ability to provide safe and effective care and to question and challenge where there are concerns. As the committee that approves all clinical related policies it provides evidence and assurance as required by NHSLA

## **Child Protection Annual Report April 2011 – March 2012**

This is the first Annual Report for Child Protection since the three legacy organisations merged to create Whittington Health. Child protection leads from NHS Islington, GOSH in Haringey and Whittington Hospital had been working together closely to ensure that clear governance arrangements were in place on 1st April 2011 when Whittington Health started operating as an Integrated Care Organisation. From that date Whittington Health Child Protection Committee has overseen the harmonisation of policy, practice and performance reporting required of the new organisation. This work has continued into 2012/13.

This annual report provides an overview of Whittington Health's child protection arrangements and key developments in the period April 2011 to March 2012.

It includes sections on the following areas:

1. Governance
2. Quality and Assurance
3. Policy
4. Practice
5. Whittington Health Future Child Protection Plans 2012-2013

Whittington Health is committed to ensuring that all children in hospital, at home and other community settings are cared for in a safe, secure and caring environment.

Since becoming an Integrated Care Organisation, Whittington Health has streamlined this function in that all Named Professionals now work as part of one child protection team.

### **1. Governance**

#### **1.1 Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Professionals**

The Trust has a full complement of child protection staff in post as recommended in Working Together to Safeguard Children DCSF (2010):

- Named Nurses (3 WTE).
- Named Doctors (0.9 WTE)
- Named Midwife (0.2 increased to 1 WTE in September 2011)

**1.2** The Trust's executive lead for child protection is the Director of Nursing and Patient Experience. The Trust Board receives an update on safeguarding children annually and a monthly update of progress and involvement in serious case reviews in relation to children.

**1.3** The Trust meets its statutory responsibilities in relation to Criminal Records Bureau checks.

**1.4.** The Islington Community Named Nurse currently leads; line manages and provides supervision to a team of two Child Protection Advisors, a total of 1.6 WTE. The Named Nurse in conjunction with the Named Doctor and the Child Protection Advisors provide training, advice and support on child protection matters to Islington community staff and Islington Independent Contractors. The Named Nurse and Child Protection Advisors provide three monthly child protection supervision to Health Visitors, School Nurses, Health Practitioners in Special Schools, The Family Nurse Partnership, The Looked After Children Team Nurses, Children's Community Nursing Service and group supervision to Skill Mix Teams.

**1.4.1** The Haringey Community Named Nurse manages the Paediatric Liaison Health Visitor Team at the North Middlesex Hospital. The Named Nurse provides child protection training to all staff in conjunction with the Haringey Safeguarding Children's Board and provides child protection advice to Haringey community staff. The 3.2 WTE Specialist Health Visitors for Child Protection are managed by the General Manager for Universal Services and receive their supervision from an Independent Consultant. The Specialist Health Visitors for Child Protection provide supervision three to four to Health Visitors in Haringey.

**1.4.2** The Whittington Hospital Named Nurse manages the Paediatric Liaison Health Visitor Team at the Whittington Hospital. The Named Nurse provides child protection supervision to the midwives for vulnerable women and infants and the Paediatric Liaison Nurse. She provides, in conjunction with the Named Doctor and Named Midwife child protection training and advice to Whittington Hospital staff.

**1.4.3** Two new Named Nurses for Islington and Haringey Community Services took up their posts on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 prior to the retirement of the current post holders on 31st March 2012, allowing for a managed handover of the role.

**1.4.4** The Named Nurses are line managed by the Director of Operations – Women, Children and Families. They attend monthly group supervision sessions with the Director, Named Midwife and other Named Nurses.

**1.5** In October 2011 the Named Doctor in Haringey resigned her post, the Lead Clinician in Community Paediatrics assumed the Named Doctor responsibilities during the interim period. The Named Doctor post has been recruited to and the successful applicant commences in post in May 2012.

**1.6** The Director of Operations chairs the bi-monthly operational Whittington Health Child Protection Team Meeting which is attended by the Named Professionals.

**1.7** The Director of Nursing and Patient Experience is the Executive Lead for Whittington Health for Child Protection and chairs the bi-monthly Whittington Health Child Protection Committee.

**1.8** The Director of Operations – Women, Children and Families, is a member of the Islington and Haringey Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). The Director of Operations and the Named Professionals represent Whittington Health on the relevant LSCB sub groups in both Boroughs.

## **2. Quality & Assurance**

**2.1** The Whittington Health Child Protection Committee meets every two months and is chaired by the Director of Nursing and Patient Experience. It includes representation from all key clinical areas and external partners, including the Designated Nurses, Doctors and representatives from Children's Social Care from the London Boroughs of Haringey and Islington.

**2.2** Information from the Local Safeguarding Children Boards is discussed at the Child Protection Committee. The Haringey Joint Area Review, the Whittington Health child protection risk register and other reports and action plans are monitored to ensure the Trust complies with directives and timescales.

**2.3** The Named Child Protection Professionals received child protection supervision with the Designated Professionals and from other external sources. There is a national requirement that staff who work directly with children must have regular child protection supervision. Compliance with this requirement is monitored by the child protection committee.

**2.4** In December 2011, there was a serious incident relating to loss of data from Whittington Hospital ED relating to children subject to Child Protection Plans in Haringey, Islington and Camden. This was investigated internally and reported to NHS London, the three borough councils and the Information Commissioner.

**2.5** The Child Protection Service is currently monitored by the use of a RAG rated assurance scorecard populated quarterly with data gathered by the Named Nurses, and reported on to the Whittington Health Child Protection Committee.

Data reported on:

- Percentage of eligible staff up to date with Level 1, 2 and 3 child protection training
- Percentage of clinical staff who receive 3 monthly child protection supervision
- Number of vacant posts in the child protection team
- Number of vacant Health Visitor and School Health Advisor posts
- Unallocated cases of children subject to Child Protection Plans

**2.5.1** Due to ongoing difficulties in producing accurate training attendance from the Whittington Health Electronic Staff Record system, there continues to be uncertainty about the percentage of staff who are up to date with child protection training.

**2.5.2** The issue has been added to the Child Protection Risk Register and Trust Risk Register and has been raised at the Quality and Safety Committee.

**2.5.3** There is an annual audit plan for child protection in place which is monitored by the Child Protection Committee. Audits this year include quality of supervision and the quality of child protection referrals.

**2.5.4** An announced Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After Services took place in Islington in February 2012. The Ofsted evaluation of Islington borough services has been published and concluded that services, including health services, were good with outstanding features. The formal report of the Care Quality Commission on health services had not yet been received but feedback was that all health measures were rated as good

### **3. Policy**

**3.1** All staff have access to, and work in accordance with the London Child Protection Procedures (2010).

**3.2** Work is currently ongoing to develop overarching Whittington Health Child Protection Policies.

**3.3** Legacy organisations retained their individual child protection policies and procedures during the period of transition until the overarching policies have been written and ratified.

## **4. Practice**

**4.1** A bi-monthly report on all Serious Case Reviews is reviewed by Child Protection Committee and the Trust board.

**4.1.2** The Trust were not involved in any new Serious Case Reviews between April 2011– March 2012.

**4.1.3** The progress of the Serious Case Review action plans are reported to the Whittington Health Child Protection Committee and monitored by the Quality and Assurance Subgroup of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board

**4.1.4** 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. The SCR Executive Summary was published early in 2012 following the conclusion of the criminal case against the father of the children, who received a lengthy custodial sentence. Whittington Health's Action Plan was completed on 12/01/2011.

**4.1.5** During the autumn of 2011, Whittington Health staff were required to appear as witnesses in criminal proceedings regarding two previous Serious Case Reviews, Child A in 2009 and Child W in February 2011. Staff were prepared and supported throughout the court cases by the Named Nurse.

**4.1.6** There have been a number of Freedom of Information Requests regarding policy and practice in Haringey during the time leading up to the death of Peter Connolly (Serious Case Review Haringey 2008). These were responded to on time.

## **5. Whittington Health Future Child Protection Plans 2012-2103**

**5.1** The team will work to develop overarching trust wide child protection policies and procedures.

**5.2** The Child Protection Team will work together to ensure policies are disseminated throughout the organisation and are implemented in practise.

**5.3** The Child Protection Team will work together to ensure child protection awareness is raised throughout the organisation and to ensure high standards of practise through training and quality supervision.

**5.4** The Child Protection Team will work together to develop a Trust wide Training Policy and work with Learning and Development to ensure the Trust meets and is able to report on its percentage of staff trained at the required training levels.

**5.5** The Child Protection Team will work to ensure the child protection data provided is timely and accurate.

**5.6** The Child Protection Team will monitor progress and quality through the child protection audit plan to provide assurances to the board.

**5.7** The Child Protection Team awaits the revised National Working Together policy and guidance in 2012/13.

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