

**Whittington Health
Safeguarding Children declaration
December 2012**

Whittington Health is committed to safeguarding children and young people by ensuring that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is embedded across all services.

Section 11 of the Children Act (2004) places a duty on every NHS Trust to have arrangements in place to ensure that the organisation and all staff working within it have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In compliance with this responsibility the following arrangements for safeguarding children are in place:

- Whittington Health meets statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All relevant staff complete a DBS check prior to employment and those staff working with children are required to complete an enhanced level of assessment. Systems are in place to ensure that all members of staff who work with vulnerable adults or children, or staff that have access to patient's personal information have a DBS check every three years
- The legacy organisations (Haringey PCT, Islington PCT and The Whittington Hospital) have individual safeguarding children policies in place. Guidelines and policies will be combined during 2013. All safeguarding children policies and systems are reviewed as part of Whittington Health's quality assurance process.
- Whittington Health has a process in place for following up children who fail to attend health appointments, both in hospital and in the community, to ensure that their welfare is not adversely affected.
- Whittington Health has an audit programme to assure the Trust Board that safeguarding children systems and processes are working.
- Safeguarding Children supervision is mandatory for all professionals who work with children and families and is available for all other staff. Supervision is provided by appropriately trained and experienced lead professionals and is monitored by the safeguarding children committee.
- An action plan is in place to ensure that all staff are trained to the appropriate level. Currently, 87% of Whittington Health staff have completed Level 1 Safeguarding Children training in the last 3 years.
- Whittington Health has the full complement of Named Safeguarding Children Professionals who lead on issues in relation to safeguarding children.
- The Director of Nursing is the Executive Director Lead for Safeguarding and chairs the Whittington Health Safeguarding Children Committee. The Trust Board receives updates and an annual Safeguarding Children report.
- Whittington Health is represented on Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Islington and Haringey.