

Annual Report
Year ending March 2007

Safeguarding Children at the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
(Formally known as Child Protection)

Our responsibility as a NHS Hospital Trust is to ensure that we safeguard children who attend our hospital.

“Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (DfES 2006), identifies our statutory responsibilities & duties and how our organisation should work together, with others to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it was produced as response to the Children’s Act 1989. The National Service Framework for Children, Young people and Maternity Services (NSF) is an integral part of the Every Child Matters, (DfES 2003) and also sets standards for safeguarding children.

Our progress at achieving these standards is reviewed by the local safeguarding children’s boards (LSCB) in the boroughs of Haringey and Islington (this is their statutory responsibility) and the Health Care Commission.

This annual Safeguarding Children report will use our responsibilities as a framework to present our activities and achievements.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) states it is our responsibility as a Hospital Trust to:

- **The NHS Trust must work in partnership with the Local safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB)**

Lead Nurse for safeguarding children represents the Whittington Hospital Trust on both the Haringey & Islington LSCB. These meetings are reported to Hospital Trust Strategic Child Protection forum.

The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust fully participates in Serious Case Review.

- **All NHS Trust should identify a named Doctor, a named Nurse, and where there is a maternity unit, a named Midwife with responsibility for Safeguarding children.**

Dr Heather Mackinnon (Paediatrician) has the responsibility as the ‘Named Doctor’ for many years, as part her substantive post. Jacqueline Davidson (senior midwife) is the Named Midwife, as part of her managerial responsibilities. The Named Nurse role was recruited (full time post) to in April 2006; Jo Carroll (senior nurse and Health Visitor).

The Safeguarding Children Team is now complete, with the recruitment of a Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children (Named Nurse for Child Protection) and the Paediatric Liaison Nurse, Jo Ayton, in September 2006. Islington PCT and Haringey TPCT provide clerical support for the team, but staff is based within the Whittington Hospital. The Paediatric Liaison role now comes under the safeguarding responsibilities, as stated in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2006 (DfES) Having two nurses in post means that there can be cover during periods of leave and that the liaison post could be seen as a preparation for the Lead nurse role.

The focus of the named individuals is to safeguard children and promote good practice and provide advice and support for all staff.

- **To ensure Safeguarding Children Training Strategy is in place and delivered.**

The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust Safeguarding Children Training Strategy is now in its final draft. The strategy has been influenced by recommendations from local serious case reviews and by the document 'Safeguarding Children and Young People: Competences for Health Care Staff (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, (RCPCH 2006).

Despite not having a formal Training strategy during the year ending March 2007 the amount of training and support provide for staff has been at its best both in quality and quantity.

Training (level1, RCPCH 2006) has been provided for every new member of staff attending hospital induction since April 2007. This will ensure that all staff at the Whittington Hospital:

Understand what constitutes Child abuse
Understands their responsibility
Understand who to go to for help and advice and how to contact them.

Level 1 training has been provided to all Whittington Staff who attend mandatory annual clinical update, since April 2006.

These training sessions are a commitment of four sessions a month, and are delivered by the Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children (LNSC), with the appointment of a Paediatric Liaison Nurse; this training commitment should be covered 100% for 2007/8.

Dr. Heather Mackinnon and Dr. Caroline Fertiman (Paediatrician – with responsibility for training) in partnership with named and designated child protection professionals from Islington PCT ran a very success RCPCH training day for - Senior House Officers 'Safeguarding Children - recognition ands response-' in November 2006. There are two further days arranged for May & November 2007. 18 junior doctors attended.

Dr. Heather Mackinnon in partnership with the Team Manager - Children and Family Team (Islington Social Services based at the Whittington hospital) gave the annual

presentation at Trust Training and Audit afternoon September 2006. This year's topic was 'Dramas and Difficulties in the Labour Ward' - a multi-professional discussion about whose responsibility it is to physically remove an infant from the mother when serious Safeguarding issues has been formally identified.

Midwives requested specific training and support, and during 2006/2007, six child protection study days were provide with an average of 12 attendees. The study days were facilitated by the Midwife Gaynor Wood supported by LNSC. Police, social services, drug and alcohol workers contributed to the day. They evaluated very well by participants, and anecdotal evidence from named midwife and social workers indicate that the specific training has had a positive effect, on clarifying midwives professional responsibilities and increasing individual's confidence and competence to identify and act upon Safeguarding Children issues.

Training sessions at Level 2 have been provided for staff working directly with children by the LNSC in the Emergency department and the paediatric unit (Neonatal unit (2) & Paediatric ward, outpatients and ambulatory care unit. (3))

The Health Care Commission reported that many staff groups do not receive any training regarding Safeguarding Children, both nationally and locally, this included acquisition of skills required to communicate with children. These groups included

1. Senior Doctors especially Orthopaedics and surgical
2. Staff in area where children are seen / treated other than paediatric units.

This has been considered in the Safeguarding Children Training Strategy for 2007/8., and training sessions for senior doctors have been organised for April 2007.

The named professionals for safeguarding children have access to monthly workshops provided by the Tavistock. And Portman NHS Trust. They provide an essential learning and supportive for senior staff that are leads in their organisations.

- **Responsible for Whittington Hospitals NHS Trust contribution to Serious Case Reviews (SCR) as identified by LSCBs**

During the year ending March 2007 there has been three Serious Case Reviews (SCR):

June 2006 - LT 3 year old murdered by her Father, and also FT 9 year old, his Father seriously assaulted her brother. This happened the day after their attendance at Whittington Hospital Emergency Department following an alleged domestic violence incident between their Mother and father. Haringey LSCB SCR sub- group undertook a multi- agency review and decided not to proceed with an investigation.

Whittington Hospital undertook an internal Serious Untoward Incident (SUI) report and produced a number of recommendations including increasing awareness amongst staff regarding the relationship between domestic violence and safeguarding children. This has been incorporated into the Safeguarding Children training Strategy.

July 2006 – Islington SGCB commenced a SCR following a death of a baby in Montserrat. His Mother had received antenatal care at the Whittington Hospital. Information was submitted but we are no longer part of the on going review.

December 2006 - DT, 16-year-old girl found hanging at home and brought the Whittington hospital and died in ITU. DT had been seen and assess at the Whittington hospital in the preceding months. Haringey LSGB serious case review subgroup has initiated a multi- agency review of which we have contributed and is on going.

Update - February 2004 - ATT 3-year-old girl removed by her mother from the hospital while under a police protection. (Haringey LSCB) Recommendations from the hospital internal review were to have clear guidelines for nursing staff about what to do when a child goes missing from the hospital. This has resulted in the 'Absconding child - guidelines for nurse' with Log, which is in its final draft.

There has been three other cases of unexpected death of children and young people during 2006/7 considered by the LSGB SCR sub-groups in which Whittington Hospital have been involved but these incidents were concluded as 'accidents. No further action was required.

From April 2008 there will be a statutory requirement to have Child Death Review panels to review EVERY child death in the local area. Dr. Mackinnon and Jo Carroll are involved in multi agency discussions, led by the metropolitan police, to decide how we are to achieve this across the local boroughs.

- **Ensure that Safeguarding Children issues are part of the Hospital Trust clinical governance system.**

Safeguarding Children Structures with the trust were reviewed during 2005/6. Since April 2006 there has been a two forum structure.

Strategic Child Protection (safeguarding children) forum – this meets quarterly and is chair by the director of nursing and clinical development Deborah Wheeler, who is also the trusts children's champion. The purpose and objectives of this forum appendix 1

Operational Child Protection (safeguarding children) forum- is chaired by the Linda McGurrin the Divisional Manger for Women and Children's Services, and has senior manager representatives attending from around the hospital. The plan was for this forum to meet monthly. This has proved very difficult with nearly 33% of meeting cancelled due to members being unable to attend due to other professional commitments. Since January 2007 the group meet every other month. The group report to the Strategic CP forum. The purpose and objectives of this forum appendix 2

Looking forward - 2007/8

The action plan will include:

- Ensuring our staff support / training strategy is rolled out across and identifies ways of evaluating this.
- Undertake 'Training Needs Analysis' in partnership with trust training and development team.
- Continue to work in partnership with local safeguarding |children's board
- Report for year ending March 2008 will contain quantitative data regarding number of staff provide with training as a proportion of staff employed. This will mean finding a more robust method of recording training sessions available and numbers of staff attending.
- Audit results – from hospital records December 2006 – May 2007 (as Laming recommendations)

The half year update report will be presented October / November 2007 Clinical Governance committee.

In conclusion

2006/2007 has been a year that many plans have come together and we are in much better position to fulfil all our statutory safeguarding children obligations. The named nurse post and paediatric liaison nurses posts are recruited into and are working as a team. A paediatric Consultant with specific responsibilities for training and support commenced in post. We have seen the working together of the Named midwife, Named Nurse in supporting specific training and support for midwives which has given our midwifery staff increased confidence and competence. Level 1 training is now part of induction for all staff that work at the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust.

There is still much work to be done, we have plans and we need to carry these out, monitor and evaluate them. We need to continue to develop and maintain robust systems to safeguard children by having competent and confident staff, clinical & non- clinical, managers and lead professionals alike, who know how to identify abuse, know what to do with the information and who and how to contact support and advice.

Jo Carroll
Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children
March 2007

