

SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Declaration on Safeguarding Children

1. Following the Care Quality Commission's review and report on Safeguarding children, Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has reviewed the Standards for Better Health requirements on NHS Trusts in terms of safeguarding.
2. The Trust is able to provide assurance that it is compliant with the statutory requirements with regard to the carrying out of Criminal Records checks. "Safer Recruitment" processes are subject to audit as part of the Trust's 2009-2010 audit programme.
3. The Trust has policies in place, which includes details on how to identify and manage non-attendance at appointments of children and young people.
4. The Trust has a current and operational Safeguarding Children Policy and system in place. The new Safeguarding Lead for adults and Children is currently reviewing the existing policy to incorporate the further development of the reporting and monitoring systems. This review will be concluded in December 2009.
5. The Datix reporting system now has incorporated a specific 'Safeguarding Concerns' field. The system allows for automatically generated notification to the Safeguarding Lead and Named Nurse who will oversee the system and ensure appropriate action is undertaken and inter agency communication takes place as appropriate within the Safeguarding Adults and the Safeguarding Children Policy and procedures.
6. The Rio recording system is in the process of being reviewed and updated to include the potential risk to own or others children as part of our assessment process that will ensure that a 'Safeguarding Folder' is created on this system.
7. The Trust has systems in place to ensure that all eligible staff undertake Mandatory Level 1 Safeguarding Training. This is regularly monitored through the Trust's balanced scorecard and attendance is reported monthly to the Board. The Trust's training arrangements are currently being reviewed and this review will be concluded in December 2009. The current training programme continues alongside the review process.

8. The Trust has clear arrangements for named safeguarding professionals. Roles and responsibilities are outlined in job descriptions and job plans. The current safeguarding roles within the Trust include a Safeguarding Lead, a Named Nurse and a Named Doctor.

9. The Director of Operations/Deputy Chief Executive is the Board level lead for Safeguarding. The Trust's Safeguarding arrangements are reported on to the Board twice a year and are subject to internal audit and clinical audit. The Trust does not operate Accident and Emergency services but it does provide Psychiatric Liaison Services for both Yeovil District Hospital and Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Our clinical and professional staff work closely with both these acute trusts on Safeguarding issues. Trust staff work closely with acute and community colleagues through both informal contacts and organised fora such as the Named Nurse Forum and the Health Forum.

Richard Painter
Safeguarding Lead for Adults and Children

Diana Rowe
Director of Operations/Deputy Chief Executive
Board Level lead for Safeguarding

22 September 2009