

Safeguarding Children Declaration for 2017 - 2018

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (TCCG) is committed to protecting and safeguarding children and young people. The safety and welfare of children and young people who come into contact with our services either directly or indirectly is paramount and all staff have a responsibility to ensure that best practice is followed, including compliance with statutory requirements.

TCCG has taken all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and are fully engaged in the work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). TCCG as a commissioner of health services is fully compliant with the Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework 2015.

Expectations of healthcare providers are clearly outlined within Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework 2015 and are embedded within all contracts. These also apply to those services commissioned by healthcare provider organisations. TCCG ensures that organisations commissioned to provide healthcare services have systems in place that safeguard children in line with **Section 11 of the Children Act 2004**.

This includes clear accessible policy and procedures, safer recruitment, training, supervision and governance systems, which are monitored by TCCG providers Clinical Quality Review Group (CQRG), Quality and Patient Safety Committee (QPSC) and Designated Professionals.

Employing the Right Staff and meeting our Statutory Requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Service employment checks and Safeguarding Children Training.

TCCG meets statutory requirements in regard to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All eligible staff (as defined by NHS Employers) undergoes robust employment checks prior to employment and those working with children, young people and adults at risk undergo an enhanced level of assessment. These functions and duties are managed through the TCCG HR function which is commissioned through North East London Commissioning Support Unit (NEL CSU).

Safeguarding Children Training in TCCG :

TCCG ensures all staff has completed relevant safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role and this training is regularly reviewed and updated. This is monitored quarterly.

Our position with regard to training of staff within the Safeguarding Team as of July 2017 was 100% at Level 4 and 5.

Safeguarding Children Training TCCG Commissioned Services:

Healthcare providers commissioned by TCCG have a target of 90% compliance for all safeguarding children training Levels 1-3. The NHS Trusts provider organisations delivering services to the residents of Thurrock provide evidence that their staff have completed relevant safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. Any gaps identified are monitored.

The Right Safeguarding Children Professionals in Post:

TCCG has in place Designated Professionals whose responsibilities are clearly outlined within the relevant job descriptions. The Safeguarding Team as at July 2017 is at capacity.

The Designated Professionals are clear about their roles and have sufficient time and support to undertake it.

Safeguarding and Supervision Policies are up to date and reviewed annually:

TCCG is signed up to and adheres to the Southend Essex and Thurrock (SET) 2016/7 and the revised statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015). TCCG is compliant with the Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework and requires commissioned health provider organisations demonstrate compliance through a quarterly reporting process on set safeguarding children indicators.

TCCG commissions services from provider organisations that are able to demonstrate effective systems and processes to identify and follow up children and young people vulnerable, at risk, in need and of protection, and Looked After Children.

A process for the delivery and monitoring of safeguarding children supervision is included within the safeguarding children supervision policy of the NHS Trusts that TCCG commission. The Designated and Named Professionals receive safeguarding children supervision. Compliance to safeguarding supervision is reported on the TCCG QPSC and CQRG.

The Right Governance Arrangements in Place:

The TCCG Board / QPSC reviews safeguarding across the organisation annually and has robust audit programmes to assure that safeguarding systems and processes are working effectively to safeguard children and young people. The Executive Lead for Safeguarding Children is the Chief Nurse. The Board receives quarterly updates on safeguarding through the Chief Nurse and an annual report. There is also an annual Board session on Strategic Safeguarding Development.

The Right Clinical Performance Monitoring Systems in place across all with all Providers, including the Independent Sector

A robust safeguarding children performance monitoring framework is in place. Contracts are monitored and reviewed for quality. TCCG has reviewed the safeguarding children indicators in partnership with the local health economy. As a result a TCCG Safeguarding Children Dashboard is in place and shared with partner agencies and safeguarding boards/subgroups.

General Practices and Safeguarding Children:

NHS England (NHSE) has the duty to commission primary care services. General Practices are commissioned by NHS England, however CCGs have been tasked with quality and service improvement within primary care. There is a Named Safeguarding Professional for Primary Care employed by the CCG. All GP Practices have a safeguarding lead and are offered training. All GP Practices complete an annual Section 11 Audit.

TCCG has supported Thurrock GPs in achieving Level 3 safeguarding children training competencies by highlighting the TCCG training offer. This is delivered by the Safeguarding Team. The training requirements brief is also uploaded on the CCG Intranet site for members.