

Safeguarding Children Declaration for 2019 - 2020

NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (TCCG) believes that living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person. The CCG acknowledges its statutory responsibility to promote the welfare of children and young people, (including Looked After Children (LAC)) and to protect vulnerable families from abuse, neglect, exploitation and risk of harm.

TCCG recognises safeguarding as a high priority for the organisation. In order to achieve this, the CCG ensures robust arrangements are in place to provide strong leadership, vision and direction for Safeguarding providing clear accessible policies and procedures in line with relevant legislation, statutory guidance and best practice.

We have a clear line of accountability for safeguarding within the CCG. An Accountable Officer and Chief Nurse with executive lead for safeguarding are in place. The CCG has also secured the expertise of Designated Nurses and Doctors for Safeguarding Children, LAC and Child Death Reviews.

Expectations of healthcare providers are clearly outlined within Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework 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), Patient Safety and Quality Committee, Contracts Team 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 functions via Arden and Gem CSU.

Safeguarding Children Training in TCCG:

TCCG ensures staff has completed relevant safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. This is reported on quarterly. Our position with regard to training of staff within the Safeguarding Team as of April 2019 was 100% at Level 3, 4 and 5.

Safeguarding Children Training TCCG Commissioned Services:

Healthcare providers commissioned by the CCG have a target of 95% compliance for all safeguarding children training Levels 1-3. The Acute STP MSE Hospital Groups delivering services to the residents of Thurrock are expected to 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 April 2018 is at full capacity. As at June 2019, there is one vacancy. This position has been appointed to, awaiting a start date.

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:

The CCG is signed up to and adheres to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children. 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 from the Health Economy. The team receives safeguarding children supervision. Compliance to safeguarding supervision is reported by Providers at the monthly Clinical Review Quality Meetings.

The Right Governance Arrangements in Place:

The CCG Board / Quality and Patient Safety Quality Committee 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 & LAC through the Designated Nurse / Chief Nurse and an annual report. There is also an annual Board session on Strategic Safeguarding Development as per Intercollegiate Guidance.

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 and or subgroups, as required.

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 clinical safeguarding lead and deputy, and are offered training. All GP Practices complete a Bi-Monthly Section 11 Audit. BB CCG has supported BB GPs in achieving Level 3 safeguarding children training competencies by highlighting the TCCG training offer. This is facilitated/delivered by the Safeguarding Team. The training requirements brief is also uploaded on the CCG Intranet site for members.