

NHS Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Children Declaration

Introduction

The NHS along with other agencies must have effective arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These arrangements will help agencies to create and maintain an organisational culture and ethos that reflects the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

NHS Cambridgeshire is fully committed to its responsibility for protecting and safeguarding children and young people. We have taken all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and protect young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and are fully engaged with Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Our policies apply to all our commissioned services and apply to all provider staff, volunteers and Independent contractors that we hold contracts with. Clear statements of our expectations of providers are detailed within local contracts with NHS providers. These expectations include clear reporting and audit requirements which are monitored by our Designated Doctor and Nurse.

Declaration

NHS Cambridgeshire is declaring it has effective safeguarding arrangements in place and is compliant following their review of NHS arrangements for Safeguarding Children (July 2009) in all areas as outlined below;

Organisation meets statutory requirements in relation to Criminal records Bureau checks. NHS Cambridgeshire has in place robust HR processes that include the requirement for all staff to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. Depending on the post, some members of staff have enhanced CRB checks. Strict criteria outlining this are in place and managed through the HR function.

Child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust, including a process for following up children who miss outpatient appointments and a system for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns. The Safeguarding Children policy is awaiting ratification. NHS Cambridgeshire does not have direct contact with children. Cambridgeshire provider services have included in their policies a process for following up children who miss outpatient appointments and a system for flagging children for whom there are concerns.

All eligible staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training at level 1. The majority of employees of NHS Cambridgeshire require Level 1 training only and this is delivered as part of the Corporate Induction Programme and is available to all, via an e-learning package. 100% of employees will have completed this training by March 2010. Level 1 training is also provided to all Independent Contractors of NHS Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire has developed a training strategy and guidance for all its provider services, to ensure consistency across the area.

Organisations should have in place a policy / process for the supervision of staff. A process for supervision is included within the Safeguarding Children Policy and is in place within the providers services.

Designated professionals are clear about their role and have sufficient time and support to undertake it. NHS Cambridgeshire has in place a Designated Doctor and Nurse whose responsibilities are clearly outlined within the relevant job description.

There is a Board Level Executive Director lead for safeguarding, the Board reviews safeguarding across the organisation at least once a year and has robust audit programmes to assure it that safeguarding systems and processes are working. The Director for Clinical Redesign and Service Improvement is also the Executive Nurse and Children's Champion for NHS Cambridgeshire. An Annual Report on Safeguarding Children is presented to the Board with updates and papers on Serious Case Reviews as required.

PCTs should ensure that they have robust and appropriate performance monitoring systems in place with all providers, including the independent sector. PCTs should ensure that GP practices and staff have robust systems and practices in place to ensure they can fulfil their role in safeguarding children. Contracts are being reviewed and safeguarding children standards and monitoring included. The GP performance management framework is the Standards for Better GP Practice. A Named GP is being appointed to support and advise GP practices. The GP toolkit has been provided to all practices to support their systems regarding Safeguarding Children and guidelines for all Independent Contractors is in awaiting ratification.

PCTs should scrutinise the declarations of all providers from whom they commission services. Copies of the declarations from provider services will be held and reviewed by NHS Cambridgeshire.

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