

THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN DECLARATION

The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust is working hard to ensure that all patients, including children, are cared for in a safe, secure and caring environment. As a result, a number of safeguarding children arrangements are in place.

This includes:

- **CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU CHECKS**

A Criminal Records Bureau check is carried out for all Trust employees who meet the relevant criteria prior to appointment. For specific groups of staff rechecks are carried out on a periodic basis. Any applicant who is barred under the Vetting and Barring Scheme will not be appointed. If an applicant has a criminal record, an assessment will be carried out regarding the disclosed information and the relevance of the offence/offences in relation to the role in which the applicant may be employed. Appropriate action would be taken to withdraw the offer should it be deemed necessary. The Trust recognises its responsibility to refer names to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) if an employee is removed from regulated activity. Equally, if it is found that an existing employee is barred under the Vetting and Barring Scheme appropriate action would be taken i.e. termination of employment.

- **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICIES AND SYSTEMS**

The Trust ensures that its Safeguarding Children policies and systems are up to date, robust and compliant with local and national legislation and guidance. The Trust's Safeguarding Children in Hospital policy sets out guidance and systems for referring concerns to Children's Services and seeking advice from the Trust's Safeguarding Children Team.

The Trust has a dedicated section in the hospital records used to quickly identify safeguarding concerns. For a more real time update staff are advised via training and hospital policy guidance to contact children services to establish the current status. The Trust is working with social care to agree mechanism whereby Trust staff can have direct access to an up to date social care database. The policy on Safeguarding Children in Hospital describes the requirement for follow up of children who miss outpatient appointments about whom there are safeguarding concerns.

- **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN TRAINING**

As at May 2010 the Trust was 90% compliant with the Safeguarding Children Training programme at level 1. All new staff receive Level 1 Safeguarding Training as part of the induction and mandatory training. Additional level 1 training is accessible for staff in an e-learning format via the KITE site. Level 2 and 3 training commenced in 2009 for those staff groups who interact regularly with children such as A&E and Women's & Children's services.. The Trust monitors compliance with these requirements through regular review of training database, sending training reports to appropriate managers and through the Joint Health Safeguarding Children Committee.

- **NAMED CHILD PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS**

The Trust has a named nurse, doctor and midwife for child protection as well as a designated senior nurse and designated doctor working across the PCT and hospital setting.

These named professional are clear about their roles and have sufficient time to perform their duties. The Named Doctor and Named Nurse are supported in the performance of their duties by the Designated Senior Nurse for Safeguarding Children, the Designated Doctor for Child Protection and the Safeguarding Assurance Officer.

- **BOARD LEVEL EXECUTIVE LEAD**

The Director of Nursing and Midwifery has Executive responsibility for Safeguarding Children. The Board of Directors receives an annual report on Safeguarding Children and a quarterly report which addresses trust-wide Safeguarding Children issues via the Quality and Safety committee.

- **SAFEGUARDING AUDITS**

The Trust has an audit programme in place to assure itself that it's safeguarding systems and processes are working. The audit program includes a clinical practise audit, ongoing monitoring of attendance at case conference, referral and response tracking and qualitative audit of referrals. Requests for any new process based audits received from the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board, Local Government Office or Strategic Health Authority are responded to as appropriate.

Cheryl Etches

Director of Nursing and Midwifery

Executive lead for Safeguarding

Date: Jan 2011