

To: Members of Southwark Health and Social Care Board	Date: 1 st December 2009
Report Title:	Annual Safeguarding Report
Classification:	Open
From:	Director of Commissioning & Director of Nursing

Recommendations

The Health and Social Care Board is asked to:

- Endorse the leadership and governance arrangements for fulfilling NHS Southwark's responsibilities for safeguarding children.
- Note the main findings and recommendations of The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Review (2009) and supports the proposed actions in respect of the Safeguarding Children Review.
- Note the publication of the local declaration that specifies that NHS Southwark is satisfied that safeguarding arrangements are in place as a requirement of Care Quality Commission Core Standards for Better Health.
- Note the PCT child protection activity for 2009 and that NHS Southwark is compliant with its responsibilities in relation to child protection.

1. Background / Context

2.1 Safeguarding obligations

The Children Act 2004 imposes a duty on NHS Southwark to ensure that, in exercising its functions, robust arrangements are in place to safeguard, and protect the wellbeing of children and young people. This is required by Section 11 of the Act. Core Standard 2 provides a framework for meeting these obligations and NHS Southwark is able to report it meets these requirements.

As a commissioner, Southwark NHS has a responsibility and duty to ensure that all providers from whom they commission services (both public and independent sector) have comprehensive arrangements in place to safeguard children. NHS Southwark fulfils this function in a number of ways, including:

- Service Level Agreement specifications include reference to Safeguarding Children
- Monitoring provider compliance against Serious Case Review recommendations
- Monitoring of compliance with Standards for Better Health
- Proper selection and vetting of staff and volunteers, including CRB checks
- Safeguarding policies and procedures in place that are consistent with the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board
- Providing access to safeguarding training

2.2 Southwark Child Protection Statistics (1.4.09 – 31.8.09)

- 325 children are subject to child protection plans. The majority of these relate to neglect (at 31.8.09)
- There have been 239 completed Section 47 enquiries to the children's social care duty office. 91 of these were referred to a case conference
- 18 children were made subject to a child protection plan from birth
- There are 576 looked after children (at 31.8.09)
- 117 new Child Protection plans were commenced

2. Issues for Consideration

3.1 NHS Southwark's Policy and Performance

At the 2008/9 Health Check (May 2009), NHS Southwark declared it was compliant with Healthcare Standard C2 on both commissioning and provider services. NHS Southwark provided the Care Quality Commission with evidence in support of compliance on 21st August 2009 and an action plan is in place to ensure we enhance and continue to fulfill these requirements.

3.2 Southwark's response to The Protection of Children in England; a Progress Report, March 2009

In 2008 Lord Laming was commissioned to review the state of safeguarding in England and in March 2009 his report was published with recommendations that impact on child protection at a strategic and operational level. In the report Lord Laming requested revision of the *Working Together, (2006)*. NHS Southwark is in the process of responding to a consultation document in relation to this revision. Other actions that Southwark is taking includes:

- New chairs have been appointed to the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Board.
- Dissemination of lessons from Serious Case Reviews (SCR): the Child Protection team facilitates Child Protection Updates for Community staff and Allied Health Professionals that includes updates on SCR's and the associated actions. Lessons from SCR's are raised at all Child Protection training sessions.
- A meeting took place in July 2009 between Children's Social Services, Health Visiting and School Nursing Nurse Managers and Social Worker Managers to discuss closer inter-agency working, including protocols for joint visiting.
- Southwark Child Protection stakeholders, Kings College Hospital (KCH) and Guys and St Thomas's Hospital (GSTT) have made a proposal for an Electronic flagging system that would inform A&E staff of a child's status in relation to Child Protection Plans.

3.3 Southwark PCT's response to the Department of Health Directive

The Department of Health wrote to all NHS Trusts in England on 16th July 2009 asking that Boards should assure themselves that they are compliant against the Laming recommendations. NHS Southwark's responded positively to this request confirming that the PCT and Providers meet the criteria for:

- CRB requirements
- Policies and systems for child protection
- Flagging systems for children with safeguarding concerns
- Role clarity and sufficient time and support for designated professionals
- Safeguarding children training completed for all staff up to level one

3.4 Leadership and Governance of Child Protection

The Trust is represented at a senior level on the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) and Executive, and is one of the lead agencies supporting the work of the Board.

The Trust provides a Designated Doctor and Nurse to ensure clinical leadership and quality assurance in safeguarding within the Trust and with other health Partners. The Trust also provides appropriate membership of relevant subgroups of the SSCB to ensure health contribution to multi-disciplinary strategy, effective inter-agency work and training. The Manager of the SSCB sits as a member of the Trust's Child Protection Executive and meets with the Child Protection Team to provide advice to the Trust on quality assurance and child protection from a social care and Safeguarding Children Board perspective.

The strong links that NHS Southwark has developed with the SSCB, local acute hospitals and provider services has assisted in the review of performance and outcome measure in safeguarding and helped to draw together national, regional and local initiatives and information to shape local delivery (see Appendix 1) for reporting lines.

4. Annual Report of Child Protection Activity

4.1 Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

In the period from January to August 2009 one Internal Management Review (IMR) was undertaken (regarding Child I) in response to a request from the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board. The Serious Case Review process for this IMR is being processed by Local Safeguarding Boards.

The recommendations following the review for Child I are being taken as follows:

- All agency staff will be invited to participate in the safeguarding sessions held at NHS Southwark Staff Induction sessions. Steps are progressing to implement this by the year end.
- The RIO stakeholder group has requested the provision of a visual prompt that will highlight the addition of new information and direct staff to review the family record prior to first contact with families.

- The commissioning of a training course that focuses on culture and child rearing issues that were prominent in Child I's Internal Management Review.
- Health visiting practice will be reviewed in an audit in December 2009 to take forward the Child I recommendations specifically relating to health visiting service.

Recommendations from an earlier Child H review have been implemented or are being progressed. NHS Southwark can report that changes are being made to the Child Protection Supervision Policy in relation to the provision of supervision during long-term absence of regular supervisor, and to the Health Visiting Guidelines in relation to the transfer of records, and also on the promotion of advice on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

4.2 Audits

Two child protection audits took place in 2009:

- Audit of pre-conference conducted in November 08, report completed in 2009. Findings demonstrated good health involvement in child protection case conferences.
- Peer record keeping audit reported conducted by the Nurse Managers and completed in March 2009. Findings confirmed continual improvements in record keeping standards.

Two further audits are planned for this financial year:

- Auditing of service improvement to Health Visiting practice as advised in IMR for Child I (December 2009)
- Auditing of records to identify if dependents are recorded (November 2009)

4.3 Policies and Procedures

All NHS Southwark and Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) policies, procedures and protocols are on the NHS Southwark Intranet, along with national policies. The SSCB website link is also accessible. Work is in progress for a bi-annual review of Child Protection Supervision Policy and to revise the training strategy in line with current changes. The Health Visiting Guidelines include a cross-reference to safeguarding, thus embedding safeguarding into wider documentation. (March 2009) and the School Nursing Guidelines are being finalised.

4.4 Child Death Review Process

Between January 2009 and August 2009 there were 23 child deaths in Southwark. 21 of these were under the age of 5 years, with a high percentage of neonatal deaths due to prematurity and birth abnormalities.

Since 1st April 2008 all Local Safeguarding Children's Boards are required to review all local child deaths through two interrelated processes:

- a rapid response process by key professionals, led by the Trust Designated Doctor, enquiring into each unexpected death of a child

- an overview of all child deaths through an inter-agency Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) (excluding those babies who are stillborn). This panel collects and analyses information about each death with a view to identifying:
 - cases giving rise to the need for a Serious Case Review
 - matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in Southwark
 - any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in Southwark

In all child death cases, enquiries seek to understand the reasons for the child's death, address the possible needs of other children in the household, the needs of family members, and consider lessons to be learnt regarding safeguarding and promotion of child welfare. NHS Southwark works closely with NHS Lambeth to share learning and practice around child death processes.

4.5 Training

Southwark stakeholders have good access to comprehensive child protection training provision. The Child Protection Team provides a comprehensive training programme in line with "*Working Together to Safeguard Children*" HM Government 2006 and this year has trained around 947 staff.

In addition to the core training provision, NHS Southwark has also contributed to Southwark's Induction by securing a half day Child Protection session at each induction course, presenting the Southwark perspective on the Level 2 and 3 course run by on the King's College Child Protection training courses, and, promoting the safeguarding courses run by the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board at updates and training sessions. The Child Protection team has good links with front line health managers and present Child Protection Updates at Health Visiting and School Nursing team meetings on a twice yearly basis.

4.6 RIO electronic recording

The Child Protection Team works closely with the RIO electronic records team to ensure documents and child protection processes on RIO meet Clinical Governance requirements. Child Protection is represented on the RIO Stakeholders group. The Child Protection Team promotes use of RIO facilities at Child Protection Updates.

4.7 Supervision

The Child Protection Team offer Child Protection Supervision to Nurse and Allied Health Professional Managers, the Supervisor of the Nurse Family Partnership and the specialist nurse in the referral and assessment team at the Local Authority. They are also available to staff for advice and support to help clarify and risk assess concerns around safeguarding issues.

4.8 Advice Line

The Child Protection Team provide an on-call mobile telephone advice service from Monday to Friday 9 – 5. This service can be accessed by all NHS Southwark, Independent and Commissioned staff. Laminated cards with contact details of Designated and Named Professionals in child

protection/safeguarding are distributed at Induction and Child Protection Training and by managers on request.

4.9 Networking

Strong professional links exist between local acute hospital trusts, including South London & Maudsley Trust. The designated and named doctor and nurse specialists collaborate across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham and the wider London and surrounding areas. Strong links have been developed with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings which are chaired by the Police and are where high risk domestic violence cases are reviewed. This has enabled more robust sharing of system information in respect of vulnerable individuals and families.

The Child Protection Team is involved in the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board and its constituent sub-committees and working groups, ensuring good linkages and intelligence sharing at an inter-agency level to

Practice Sub-group, Training Sub-group, Standards Sub-group, Child on Child Abuse Sub-Group, Vulnerable Children Sub-group and Domestic Violence Sub-group.

The Child Protection Team represents health at a Project Group on national statutory guidance on Sexual Exploitation and Runaways, and Children who go Missing from Home or Care.

5. Key Priorities for 2009/10

- a) Implement statutory guidance arising from Lord Laming's Report: The Protection of Children in England: A progress Report, and the Government Response and Action Plan, May 2009. The majority of this will be in the revised statutory guidance 'Working Together' to be published in December 2009. Policy, procedures and practice training will be reviewed as a result of changes and implemented from spring 2010.
- b) The Trust is ensuring compliance with national requirements and guidance issued over the summer of 2009 on Runaways and Missing Children; Sexual Exploitation of Children and Forced Marriage. As new guidance is issued it is monitored by the Child Protection Executive for implementation as required.
- c) Implement recommendations from SCR's Child H and Child I
- d) Review Child Protection Supervision Policy

6. Risk Implications and Actions Taken

PCT Boards need to assure itself that the organisation has leadership and governance processes in place to deliver on its child protection responsibilities. The PCT Child Protection Executive and strong links into the SSCB strengthens the governance and leadership arrangements and mitigates against this risk.

Other Local Safeguarding Children Board's that are re-doing 'inadequate' SCR's in line with Ofsted's requirements may require Southwark to revise Internal Management Reviews (IMRs) if Southwark has been involved in the case. Southwark is aware of the risk and steps will be taken to prioritise this activity as required.

7. Impact Statements

Child protection and safeguarding is a national high priority. It is important that NHS Southwark is compliant with Health Core standards and is able to

respond to Government requests for information and observance to safeguard children and young people in Southwark.