

Annual Safeguarding Children Declaration

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, inclusive of the Royal Brompton and Harefield and integrated Community services is fully committed to ensuring that all patients including children are cared for in a safe, secure and caring environment.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on every NHS Trust to have arrangements in place to ensure that the organisation and all staff working within it have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Trust regularly reviews its arrangements against these requirements and is compliant with them. A number of safeguarding children arrangements are in place in order to support this. These include:

- The Chief Nurse is the Executive Director lead for Safeguarding Children. Delegated responsibility for the safeguarding of children is to the Director of Nursing for Evelina London.
- The Trust's Vulnerable Person Assurance Committee leads and supports all safeguarding activity and ensures that the Trust executes its statutory duties in relation to safeguarding of children and adults. This meeting is held on a quarterly basis.
- The Board of Directors, Quality and Performance Committee receive a bi-annual and an annual report in relation to safeguarding children. The annual report for 2022-23 was presented to the committee in July 2023.
- The Trust has Named Safeguarding Professionals who lead on issues in relation to the safeguarding of children. They are clear about their role, have sufficient time and receive relevant support, and training, to undertake their roles, which includes close contact with other social and health care organisations. The total number of professionals in these roles is outlined below which includes health representation at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within Lambeth and Southwark. The breakdown of staff which is broken down by discipline and provider as follows:

	GSTT Hospital	GSTT Community
Head of Nursing/ Trust Named Nurse		1.0 WTE
Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children		1.0 WTE
Child protection trainer		0.6 WTE
Named Midwife Safeguarding Children	1 WTE	
Named Nurse Safeguarding Children	-	2 WTE
Nurse / Midwife	5.8 WTE	8.5 WTE
Named Doctor	5 PA	4 PA

Hospital figures are inclusive of Royal Brompton and Harefield.

- In addition to the Safeguarding Professionals the Trust has a team dedicated to meet the health needs of Looked after Children. The safeguarding team is also supported by two Liaison Health Visitors who review and monitor children's attendances to the Emergency Departments and Hospital.
- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust meets statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks – all staff employed at the Trust undergo a DBS check prior to employment and those working with children undergo an enhanced check. The level of DBS is determined by the role.
- The Trust Child Protection policies and systems are up to date and robust and are reviewed on a regular basis, ultimately by the Trust Board. The safeguarding children policy was revised in January 2023. This policy covers the breadth of the organisation inclusive of the Royal Brompton and Harefield sites. The safeguarding procedure document has passed its renewal date and is currently under review; the current procedure document remains safe for staff to refer to. Policies and procedures are available to staff through a dedicated safeguarding children intranet site and the Trust intranet policy site.
- Appropriate whistleblowing procedures are in place. This includes Speak up Guardians. An allegation pathway and process are in place. Any allegations in relation to staff concerning children are reported to a dedicated allegation panel with representation from the Director of Nursing Evelina London, the Head of Nursing Safeguarding Children and Human Resources (HR). The panel provide advice and support to managers and the HR workforce team in regards to any potential safeguarding concerns.

- The Trust has a process in place for following up children who miss outpatient appointments within any speciality to ensure their care and health is not affected in any way.
- The Trust has implemented the national Child Protection Information Sharing System (CP-IS) from 2019 which identifies children subject to a child protection plan or looked after child status. This is implemented within maternity services and unscheduled care i.e. Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centre. Parents and carers will be routinely asked if they are known to Children's Social Care or if they have an allocated Social Worker as part of health assessments.
- The Trust has continued to be an active member of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCPs). The Trust is represented at these boards by the Director of Nursing Evelina London Children's Hospital and or the Head of Nursing for Safeguarding Children. Membership of the various partnership boards sub committees continues.
- As a tertiary centre we have strong links with our safeguarding colleagues at other tertiary centres nationally, in addition to joint working with our local social and healthcare services.
- The Trust has an audit programme to provide assurance that safeguarding systems and processes are working. In addition to single agency audits the Trust takes part in multi-agency audits with partner agencies.
- Safeguarding Children Training is delivered at Levels 1, 2 and 3 to meet the needs of staff for their individual roles, as detailed in Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competences for Healthcare Staff Intercollegiate Document (2019). Training material is regularly reviewed and up to date. All eligible staff are required to undertake relevant safeguarding training and this is regularly reviewed to ensure it is up to date. The Trust has a training strategy in place with regard to delivering safeguarding training. There is sufficient training capacity in place in order to be able to deliver training. The percentage compliance of training in May 2023 is as follows against a target of 80%:

	Compliance training figures
Level 2	86.9%
Level 3	79.1%

- Staff support is in place and safeguarding supervision is provided to staff that have a safeguarding caseload.
- There is an ongoing need to gather patient feedback for service users in contact with universal services and the safeguarding children team in order to drive change and improve outcomes for children/young people and families. The team continues to receive positive verbal feedback on the impact of interventions, and from children, young people and families that they have felt heard and listened to. A more formal approach is now planned to be undertaken. A questionnaire has been developed to aid this and to receive feedback at intervals in the patient/ client safeguarding journey.
- The needs of our most vulnerable children and their families remains the focus of the work of the team and remains at the heart of all practice. The Trust continues to review and challenge its arrangements in order to support safe and consistent practice, adhere to its statutory duties and will respond positively and assertively to any changing guidance and national reviews.

September 2023