

Declaration of the Board of Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust in Relation to its Duties for Safeguarding Children

30th September 2009

This Trust takes its duties for safeguarding children very seriously and works closely with our partners in Sheffield and beyond. The agencies we work with include police, social care, health, education and the voluntary sector. We are a key member of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board and host the multi agency Child Assessment Service.

The Board is assured of the following:

1. The Trust has processes which meet the statutory requirement with regard to the carrying out of Criminal Records Bureau checks on its staff and will be implementing the Vetting and Barring Scheme later this year. Audit has identified that processes for reconciling CRBs could be improved and the Trust is undertaking work to carry that out.
2. The Trust uses the current South Yorkshire Safeguarding Childrens' Boards Child Protection Procedures and has a copy of this available via its intranet and in each clinical area. These procedures are referred to both in the current Trust Policy and Summary Procedure for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults and in the updated version due for approval by the Child Protection and Safeguarding Committee on 28 September 2009.
3. There is a system within key departments of the Trust e.g. Accident and Emergency to flag up children who have had a Child Protection Plan issued. There is a further system, available 24 hours per day, every day, which allows any member of the paediatric medical staff to enquire if a child has a Child Protection Plan.
4. Level 1 child protection training is available to all staff online and as taught sessions. Departmental records indicate that most staff have had training over the last three years however more work needs to be done to ensure that records of all staff training are centrally recorded on the electronic training record. The Trust intends that this central record will show that all staff have received Level 1 training by 31 October 2009.

Higher levels of child protection training are available according to the degree of contact that staff have with children. A review of all training arrangements will be completed within 6 months, taking account of emerging messages from the national review of safeguarding training.

5. Named professionals are clear about their roles and have protected time to allow these roles to be undertaken. In common with all trusts, we are allocating more time towards the role of named doctor and have been attempting to recruit additional paediatric medical consultants to support child protection.

6. The Director of Nursing and Clinical Operations is responsible for child safeguarding and ensures that the named professionals have access to the Board and provides it with briefings on child safeguarding several times per year.

7. GPs and Health Visitors are automatically notified of children who miss Outpatient Dept. appointments and are subsequently discharged to the care of their GP. A Liaison Health Visitor is based at the Trust and follows up on repeated non attendance.

8. The Child Assessment Unit carries out regular audits of child protection systems under the supervision of the Named Doctor and Named Nurse for Child Protection