

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN DECLARATION 2016

Dorset HealthCare University Foundation NHS Trust (DHC) is fully committed to ensuring that all service users, including children, are cared for in a safe, secure and caring environment and that the risks of abuse and neglect are minimised and the opportunity to enhance life chances are maximised. This declaration identifies the Trust's commitment to safeguarding and protecting children. As a result, a number of safeguarding children arrangements are in place including:

- A robust governance structure - the Board level Executive Lead with the responsibility for safeguarding is the Director of Nursing and Quality. There is a Trust Safeguarding Group and the Trust is fully represented and actively engaged in the Bournemouth and Poole and Dorset Local Safeguarding Children Boards. An annual Safeguarding Children report is received by the Trust Board.
- The Trust has Named Professionals who lead on issues in relation to safeguarding children. They are clear about their roles, and have sufficient time and receive relevant support and training to undertake their roles, which include close contact with other social care and healthcare organisations. The Named Professionals are supported by a Safeguarding Children Team who supports the Trust staff in training, safeguarding children supervision and advice and guidance.
 - Named Nurse – Liz Balfe
 - Named Doctor – Dr Judith Barnsley
- The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevents unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. The Trust implements the DBS process to ensure safe recruitment processes.
- The Trust has a Safeguarding Children Policy in place that meets with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 guidance. Processes are in place, including a policy for following up children who miss appointments, to ensure their care and health is not affected. All policies and practice guidelines are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain fit or purpose.
- The Trust has a robust training strategy in place, in line with the Intercollegiate Document "Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competencies for health care staff" March 2014. A training database for all staff is maintained and regular compliancy reports are provided to service managers, Directorates and the Joint Safeguarding Group.
- The Trust has an audit programme to assure it's safeguarding systems and processes are working. Additionally the Trust takes part in multi-agency audits with partner agencies.
- The Trust actively engages with partner agencies and organisations and is a member of the Bournemouth and Poole and the Dorset Local Safeguarding Children Boards, with representatives on the LSCB Working Groups.
- The Trust is committed to effective inter-agency information sharing, to ensure that children are protected from harm and that they receive the services they require.

Ron Shields, Chief Executive, updated February 2016