

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
PRIMARY CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

Introduction

General Practitioners (GPs) make valuable contributions to the multi-agency assessment process and have a unique insight into the overall family set up within the local community setting. The General Medical Council, states that GPs have a responsibility to cooperate fully with Child Protection procedures. (GMC 2012)¹ Section 11 of the Children Act (2004) places a duty on all health organisations to have regard for the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England) is the direct commissioner of Primary Care Services² and³ The CCG has a role in supporting Primary Care with safeguarding children and young people.

Context

In June 2014 Brent CCG had a CQC review of health services for children looked after and safeguarding. Areas of good practice were highlighted and areas required improvement. Hence the Brent CCG Safeguarding Children Team has written a Safeguarding Children and Young People Quality Improvement Framework. GPs will be supported to embed this framework by the Named Nurse for safeguarding children Brent CCG and the leads within the GP networks.

Framework continued on next page.

¹ Protecting children and young people: The responsibilities of all doctors, General Medical Council (GMC) -2012

² Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Reformed NHS: Accountability and Assurance Framework (2013)

³ HM Government Working Together to Safeguard Children inter-agency guidance (2015)

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Outcomes

Increase the quality and consistency of safeguarding children practice so that:

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people are integral to all activities in General Practice
- Children requiring early help services, children in need or children at risk of harm will be identified early and referred in line with Brent levels of need thresholds
- Effective and appropriate interventions will take place for children and young people to be safeguarded from current or future harm.

Structures

The Safeguarding children leadership within each network will ensure:

- Each GP practice or network has a Safeguarding Children Lead Doctor and deputy with additional skills and competencies according to Level 4 of the Intercollegiate Document 2014⁴
- Each GP practice has a safeguarding children policy reflecting up to date legislation and guidance in line with the RCGP toolkit
- Each practice has a generic nhs.net email account for safe and effective communication
- There is use of a standardised set of read codes for key groups of children who are more vulnerable to abuse such as Children Looked After, children on Protection Plans, children at risk of Female Genital Mutilation, children who regularly do not attend appointments or children living with adults whose lifestyle may increase their risk of abuse
- There are effective accountability and governance structures in place

Processes

Each Practice will follow a basic set of safeguarding children and young people standards covering:

- Principles of Information sharing when contributing to inter-agency working
- Safer recruitment process
- Staff safeguarding children training to cover basic induction within 6 weeks of employment followed by access to appropriate levels of training according to the Intercollegiate Document 2014
- Follow-up of children who regularly do not attend appointments
- Regular review of children flagged as vulnerable such as those subject to child protection plans or children looked after
- Safeguarding children supervision
- Contribution to and implementation of lessons learned from Serious Case reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Individual Management Reviews and Serious Incidents
- Annual peer review and audit cycles

Adapted from Donabedian (1998) sourced from: Improving the quality of care in general practice; report of an independent inquiry commissioned by the King's Fund (2011) <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/improving-quality-care-general-practice>

⁴ Safeguarding Children and Young people: roles and competences for health care staff Intercollegiate Document March 2014