

Safeguarding Children Declaration July 2018

The Board of Directors of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is accountable for and committed to ensuring the safeguarding of children in their care. The Trust also has a responsibility to liaise with other agencies and provide information to them where necessary, to ensure the ongoing safety of children once they leave hospital.

The Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Shelley Dolan, has Board level responsibility for safeguarding children. The Safeguarding Children's Team (SCT) acts on her behalf to ensure that the board is assured that all necessary measures are taken to safeguard children.

Systems and processes

The Trust aims to provide the level of training promoted by the Intercollegiate Document Guidelines and we report training compliance monthly. The Trust is compliant with both NHS Standards and current legislation and meets statutory requirements in relation to carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for new starters. All those working with children have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Policies

The Trust works to the London Child Protection Procedures and the Trust's child protection policies and procedures are robust, up to date, regularly reviewed, and are accessible to staff via the Trust intranet on a dedicated child safeguarding page. Contact details of Safeguarding Children's Team members are also available on the intranet.

Children who fail to attend out-patients appointments are routinely followed up. The Safeguarding Children Policy incorporates guidance on the management of children who fail to attend outpatient appointments.

All children seen under 16 seen in the Emergency Department are assessed using a risk assessment tool to identify potential safeguarding concerns. If a child is deemed to be vulnerable, social services are contacted to establish whether there are known safeguarding concerns. Children in Lambeth, Southwark and Bromley on a current child protection plan are automatically 'flagged' when they attend the department as the Trust receives child protection lists from these local boroughs. Children who are known to be on current child in need plan or who have complex health and social needs may also be flagged. Children attending the Emergency Department who are considered to be vulnerable are reviewed at a weekly meeting. Similarly in midwifery, vulnerable pregnant women are 'flagged' as an alert on the maternity records system to ensure they receive additional support when they attend the Trust.