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Safeguarding Commissioning Strategy 2017-2020

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1. OUR VISION

- 1.1 This document sets out the vision for an agreed strategic approach to maintain safe and effective safeguarding services and to strengthen arrangements for safeguarding adults and children in North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent
- 1.2 Our vision is to commission services to promote and protect individual human rights, independence and well-being and secure assurance that the child or adult thought to be at risk, stays safe. Also that they are effectively safeguarded against abuse, neglect, discrimination, embarrassment or poor treatment, and treated with dignity and respect, and enjoy a high quality of life.
- 1.3 We know when we will have achieved our vision when:-
 - People who live and work in North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent know what signs and indicators of abuse to look out for and who to contact for advice and support.
 - Local organisations respond in a timely and effective way to concerns about abuse.
 - Children and adults at risk have access to the support and services that they need.
 - Children and adults at risk have their voices heard within safeguarding procedures and services. We maximise their rights to choice and control, within the confines of their mental capacity and competence.
 - Children and adults at risk are protected when necessary and have improved quality of life as a result.

2. AIMS OF THE SAFEGUARDING STRATEGY

2.1 The aims of the safeguarding strategy are as follows:-

- To commission services to ensure, first and foremost that children and adults at risk of abuse are safe.
- To discharge statutory functions, ensuring compliance with the Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005 and **Children Act 1989,2004**
- To encourage, embed and maintain the best safeguarding practice across North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent
- To ensure continuous improvement and compliance with national and local policies.
- To develop and implement systems for quality monitoring that are robust, auditable and effective.
- To raise awareness about safeguarding.
- To ensure continued partnership working and contribution to the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.
- To ensure partnership working and contribution to the work of the Local Safeguarding Adult Board.
- To ensure that all staff understand that safeguarding is everyone's business.
- To learn the lessons and good practice from serious case reviews (SCRs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), local and national enquiries.

3. PRIORITIES

3.1 The key priorities for the safeguarding team for 2017-2020

- Maintain systems to ensure safeguarding assurances from health providers is evaluated.
- Maintain monitoring systems of safeguarding training and development to all NHS providers including independent contractors.
- Ensure the CCG Governing Bodies understand and have the capability to respond to statutory responsibilities.
- Strengthen processes and systems to ensure effective contribution to partnership arrangements.
- Monitor dissemination and evaluate outcomes of all SCR/DHR/SAR action plans both single and inter-agency action to receive assurance that plans have been implemented.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in health care provision.
- Review safeguarding elements of all new and existing provider contracts and Service Level Agreements. This will also include:-
- Ensuring arrangements are in place for the CCGs to commission a health needs assessment and health plan for any child looked after by the LA,
- Developing processes to ensure that as commissioners we can make adult care placements (such as in care homes, nursing homes or independent hospitals) based on knowledge of standards of care and safeguarding concerns.
- Continuing to develop plans to ensure that the CCGs are assured that any care placements it commissions are safe, mitigating against potential concerns when they arise;
- Strengthening contractual arrangements for children and adults in 'out of area' provision for Looked After Children, and/or residential care for adults with some element of specialist health need.

- 3.2 The key priorities outlined in the Strategy will be developed into a work plan which will be monitored by the North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Joint Quality Committee
- 3.3 The specialist Safeguarding and Looked after Children Professionals will work within the Clinical Commissioning Groups to analyse and develop the necessary safeguards to ensure that this area of work is maintained across the changing face of the NHS.

4. DELIVERING THE VISION

- 4.1 The vision will be delivered through implementing the work-plan and working alongside existing partnerships for both children and adult safeguarding. This will be monitored and reviewed through the Joint Quality Committee
- 4.2 A timescale will be agreed against each priority, and a responsible lead identified through the safeguarding work-plan. The work plan will develop and emerge over time to include additional activity as required through any review processes or changes to either local or national guidance or requirements.
- 4.3 Feedback from providers will be obtained through Clinical Quality Review Meetings (CQRMs) and quality monitoring schedules. Engagement with the public through existing consultation mechanisms across partnerships within the safeguarding boards will provide feedback on the effectiveness of the strategy.
- 4.4 Working Together 2015 identifies that “Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should aim proactively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.”
- 4.5 The CCGs will work alongside the neighbouring Clinical Commissioning Groups, in order to ensure that a pro-active approach is maintained both through the specific safeguarding work streams and also in the commissioning of services for children and their families, and for services to adults at risk of abuse.
- 4.6 The integration of safeguarding alongside additional elements of CCGs work will ensure that we have a co-ordinated and proactive approach to the safety and welfare of the population we serve. An example of this include close liaison with the Continuing Healthcare Team

5. MONITORING, MEASUREMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 The standard monitoring tool utilised across children’s services is the regional Section 11 self-assessment document and the subsequent challenge process. We will continue to require Provider organisations to complete this and submit the necessary evidence through agreed assurance processes

- 5.2 In addition the organisation supports the use of a similar monitoring tool for adult safeguarding that was developed by the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board. All local organisations, including the commissioning organisations are required to complete the tool and submit to the relevant Safeguarding Boards as well as internally in the CCGs
- 5.3 The organisation will undertake to work proactively with the Communications team to ensure that appropriate and timely sharing of information across the workforce, and wider partnership and public area is co-ordinated.
- 5.4 In addition we will seek to work alongside the user engagement processes across the health economy in order to improve our understanding of the public perception and requirements to improve safety and welfare.