

REPORT TO THE TRUST BOARD – PUBLIC
9 May 2018

Title	Safeguarding External Review
Author	Lorraine Sunduza – Interim Chief Nurse
Accountable Executive Director	Lorraine Sunduza – Interim Chief Nurse

Purpose of the Report:

This report is to update the Trust Board on the findings of an external Safeguarding Review and to provide assurance on current status of the Safeguarding provision across the Trust. The report has been discussed in the Quality assurance committee. The Board is asked to consider whether appropriate assurance has been provided

Summary of Key Issues:

In August 2017, the Chief Executive and the Chief Nurse commissioned an independent review to examine the Trust systems, processes and structures for Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding children including Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in the context of significant changes in services provided by the Trust. It reviewed how the Trust meets its statutory responsibilities as outlined in the Care Act 2014 for adults, and the relevant legislation pertaining to safeguarding children. The review involved obtaining views of all stakeholders including local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The report highlighted strengths in relation to the leadership, robust governance systems, clear lines of accountability, well known and respected Named safeguarding professionals, good engagement and collaborative working relationships by operational leads and local safeguarding boards and subgroups. Compliance with responsibilities in relation to mortality reviews for people with learning difficulties. In-house training that is consistent with the intercollegiate document.

The report however outlined five themes and recommendations which focus on:

1. Specialist safeguarding adult and children expertise and capacity including administrative support functions
2. Systems and processes for managing and administration of safeguarding information for adults
3. Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
4. Trust Policy and practice to incorporate the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal; and 'Think Family' approaches
5. Partnership working.
- 6.

The completion of the review coincided with the changes in the safeguarding team and the Trust being awarded the contract for providing Community Health Services for Adults in Bedford. The recommendations related mainly to significant additional resources to the team to enhance best practice however the new management arrangements are an opportunity to review the structures and functions of the team.

The report was also shared with Local Authority (LA) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) as some recommendations in the review related to LAs and CCGs.

Strategic priorities this paper supports (Please check box including brief statement)

Improved patient experience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This will ensure that there are safeguards for vulnerable adults, young people and children a
Improved health of the communities we serve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work with our partners to have a process for safeguarding service users and their family members
Improved staff experience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clear working structures that promote 'think family'
Improved value for money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Efficient working systems that safeguard all service users

Committees / Meetings where this item has been considered:

Date	Committee
December 2017	Service Delivery Board
February 2018	Quality Assurance committee

Implications:

Equality Analysis	This report impacts on all service users including vulnerable adults, those who are parents or who are in contact with children, children whose parents are service users or who have contact with service users and children who are service users themselves and their siblings
Risk and Assurance	There is no current risk as all statutory requirements are being met. Proposal set out in this report will strengthen assurance processes.
Service User / Carer / Staff	The nature of safeguarding work entails ongoing assessment of risk in day to day clinical work. The Trust safeguarding professional will continue to provide support, advice and training for staff to carry out their role in safeguarding adults and children as confidently and as effectively as possible and to sustain and develop robust assurance systems around safeguarding practice.
Financial	There are financial implications arising from the recommendations of this review and the delivery of the actions proposed
Quality	

Supporting Documents and Research material

a. Safeguarding Adults: Roles and competences for health care staff – Intercollegiate Document.
b. External Safeguarding review

Glossary

Abbreviation	In full

1.0 Background / Introduction

1.1 All health care organisations have a duty outlined in legislation to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk of harm or abuse, also to co-operate with other agencies to protect individuals from harm or abuse.

- 1.2 The Trust has a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 and safeguarding adults under The Care Act 2014. This includes the Trust meeting its obligation under the NHS England Assurance and Accountability Framework, and regulatory arrangements required for compliance purposes by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for Standards in Education, Children Services and Skills (Ofsted).
- 1.3 Due to the changes of the makeup of the Trust with the addition of community health services for adults in Tower Hamlets, the withdrawal of children's services in Newham, and the additions of Community Learning disability services in Tower Hamlets, the review was commissioned to ensure that the Trust was meeting its statutory obligation to work with partner organisations to safeguard children, young people and adults.
- 1.4 The review took place over a six-week period commencing in September 2017, involving a number of stages including:
- Meeting with Executive Leads to scope and agree the terms of engagement
 - A review of Trust policies, external reports were used as part of the assessment of the effectiveness of the Trust's safeguarding arrangements
 - Meetings and interviews with Trust Staff and Local Authority leads, Clinical Commissioning Groups and independent chairs of local safeguarding boards.

2.0 Review Findings

The review had recommendations for the Trust based on five broad themes.

- 2.1 It recommended that there was a need to increase specialist safeguarding adult and children expertise and capacity including administrative support functions. They provide training, support advice and supervision across the boroughs.
- Following review of this recommendation it is felt that Safeguarding Children resource are adequate to deliver the services across the Trust, however there are opportunities to have cross-boundary support and cover.
 - Safeguarding Adults is adequately resourced for Luton and Bedfordshire. However the London-based safeguarding resource is stretched as the named professional for Safeguarding who also leads on the PREVENT and Domestic Violence agenda across the Trust with the addition of a dedicated named professional for Tower Hamlets community.
 - Every Local Authority safeguarding board has a senior Trust representative from local boroughs; they are supported by the safeguarding leads. This is to ensure that safeguarding is owned at local level with corporate support.
 - Director of Nursing and Chief Nurse meet with the Chairs of both Safeguarding Adults and Children boards and attend as required or requested.

Plan:

- Interim Chief Nurse Lorraine Sunduza and Director of Nursing Claire McKenna are continuing to scope the resources and this will be completed by July 2018.

2.2 Safeguarding governance involves significant administration through collection of information and reporting performance. The Trust reports to seven different local authorities and the reports vary based on the requirements of each borough.

- There are multiple systems and processes for managing the administration of safeguarding information for adults and children including Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, domestic homicide reviews, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, PREVENT monitoring and the administration tasks for managing Section 42 enquiries (conferences, strategy meetings, meeting minutes). The report found inconsistencies in the systems used across teams that could benefit from unification and rationalisation.

Plan:

- There has been additional support made available from the Bedfordshire community to manage the data task.

2.3 The review recognised good practice in relation to training and governance systems for Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty however highlighted the need for policies and practices to be consistent across the mental health law and Safeguarding teams as the issues are interlinked.

2.4 Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Trust Policy and practice to incorporate the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal; and 'Think Family' approaches

- The Safeguarding leads will assist with the MCA and DOLs training across the Trust and ensure that principles feature in all the training.
- "Think family" and making safeguarding personal is now within all Safeguarding adult and children's Job description as a core responsibility.
- The "Think Family" agenda and the additional Safeguarding issues like Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic violence, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Non-recent/Historical Childhood Sexual Abuse, Radicalisation (Prevent and WRAP), Sexual Exploitation and so-called Honour-Based Violence straddle both Adult and Children and the team will work more closely.

Plan:

- The Leads for both safeguarding Children and Adults will be having a joint "Think Family" conference for all clinical staff
- One of the safeguarding strategic priorities is to bring together the safeguarding adult and child team to develop training, policies and working practices. This will ensure that knowledge is shared and that safeguarding team members can help teams to make the link between adult service users and their family context. The policy has now been amended to include this agenda as a core requirement.

- An audit tool has been developed to measure service user's experience of the safeguard investigation process. This information will link into the safeguarding board and out to locality safeguarding boards. This audit will be monitored via the quality committee and the Trust Safeguarding board.
- There will be development of joint working between Mental Health Act team and safeguarding team to ensure cohesion, and review of policy.

2.4 Partnership working

- The variation in practice and application is based on the different Local Authorities and requirements and the current management structure separating Luton and Bedfordshire safeguarding leads. The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for public services including health should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Local Authorities have a key role in this. ELFT services cover seven local authorities, each with their own thresholds and reporting systems for safeguarding. This has led to a variation in practice across the Trust to meet local demands. There is also an acknowledgement of the different themes related to the different boroughs therefore staff in the borough would need to be supported so as to meet the needs of the service users.
- Partnership working in Luton was recognised as requiring strengthening. This has occurred over the last six months. Local relationships are now in place.

Plan:

- Annual safeguarding conference with all partners across the seven CCGs hosted by the Trust for learning, review and reducing variation in practice.
- Annual 360° feedback from partner organisations.
- There is development of a Luton mental health post commissioned by the CCG to strengthen our presence and input into the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) which will further strengthen the working relationship with the local authority.

3.0 Reporting and review of impact

- 3.1 The action plan will be monitored at the Quality committee and reported to as part of deep-dive at Quality Assurance Committee.
- 3.2 The yearly Trust Board report will focus on areas of development detailed in this report.

4.0 Action being requested

- 4.1 The Board is asked to CONSIDER whether appropriate assurance has been provided