

## **Safeguarding Children Declaration April 2019**

Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (MCCG) and Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) are committed to protecting and safeguarding children and young people. The safety and welfare of children and young people who come into contact with our services either directly or indirectly is paramount and all staff have a responsibility to ensure that best practice is followed, including compliance with statutory requirements.

MCCG and WCCG seek to promote safe practice and protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and are fully engaged in the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards. As a commissioners of health services, MCCG and WCCG are compliant with the Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework 2015.

MCCG and WCCG ensure that organisations commissioned to provide healthcare services have systems in place that safeguard children in line with section 11 of the Children Act 2004. This includes clear accessible policy and procedures, safer recruitment, training and governance systems, these are monitored by Designated Nurse and Doctor, through the reporting processes and via supervision of named professionals for safeguarding children.

In February 2017 the CCGs entered into shared safeguarding arrangements, with the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Designated Nurse for Children Looked After and Designated Lead for Safeguarding Adults having responsibility for the oversight of safeguarding arrangements for both MCCG and WCCG.

### **The Safeguarding Professionals in post as of March 2019:**

MCCG and WCCG have in place the following safeguarding professionals (shared posts) :

- Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
- Designated Nurse Children Looked After
- Designate Professional Safeguarding Adults

MCCG:

- Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
- Designated Doctor Children Looked After
- Named GP

WCCG:

- Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
- Designated Doctor Children Looked After
- Named GP

### **Safeguarding children training in MCCG and WCCG:**

MCCG and WCCG ensure all staff have completed relevant safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role and this training is regularly reviewed and updated.

Our position with regard to training of staff as of March 2019 is as follows:

Level 1 (all staff)	88%
Level 4/5 (specialist safeguarding staff)	100%

### **Safeguarding children training MCCG and WCCG commissioned services:**

Healthcare providers commissioned by MCCG and WCCG are required to report on their compliance with safeguarding children training.

### **General practices and safeguarding children training:**

MCCG and WCCG support General Practice staff to access safeguarding children training competencies by highlighting the LSCB training offer and the online training from the Royal College of General Practitioners.

### **Child Protection and safeguarding and supervision policies are up to date and reviewed annually:**

MCCG and WCCG adhere to the London Child Protection Procedures 2017 and the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. MCCG and WCCG are compliant with the Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS, Accountability and Assurance Framework 2015, and require commissioned health provider organisations to demonstrate compliance through a quarterly reporting process on a metrics of safeguarding children indicators.

MCCG and WCCG commission services from provider organisations that are able to demonstrate effective systems and processes to identify and follow up children and young people who miss routine health appointments. The effective identification and management of 'missed appointments' is essential to ensure the health and wellbeing of the children and young people is promoted and as such is a required part of all safeguarding policies and procedures.

### **Employing staff and meeting our statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Service employment checks and safeguarding children training.**

MCCG and WCCG meet statutory requirements in regard to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (previously known as a Criminal Records Bureau or CRB check). All eligible staff (as defined by NHS Employers) undergo robust employment checks prior to employment and those working with children, young people and adults at risk undergo an enhanced level of assessment.

### **Governance arrangements in place:**

The MCGG and WCCG Governing Body receive an annual safeguarding report from the Designated Professionals.

The Executive Director Lead for Safeguarding Children (Accountable Officer) and the Executive Management Lead for Safeguarding (Director of Quality and Governance) hold specific responsibilities for safeguarding with accountability to the CCG Boards.