

Safeguarding declaration

The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust is committed to safeguarding all vulnerable patients who access services across the Trust.

We recognise that safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is a shared responsibility with the need for effective joint working between partner agencies and professionals, so that vulnerable groups in society are protected from harm. In order to do this we will work closely with others to ensure that all of the services we provide have regard to our duty to protect individual human rights, treat individuals with dignity and respect and safeguard against abuse, neglect, discrimination, embarrassment or poor treatment

Safer employment

RFLNHSFT meets statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All staff employed at the Trust undergo a DBS check prior to employment. All roles providing patient care are subject to an enhanced check, with checking against the barred lists (adults, children or both) as appropriate. Recruitment and selection training is mandatory for all appointing officers and Trust policy requires that references are checked before an offer of employment is made. There is a robust process in place to address any allegations against staff.

Policies and procedures

The Trust has policies and processes in place to ensure that we meet our statutory duty to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk which are robust and reviewed regularly and approved by the integrated safeguarding committee.

There are systems in place for flagging children, young people and adults where there may be safeguarding concerns and for patients with a learning disability. There are processes in place to ensure that children who are not brought to outpatients appointments are followed up.

The trust has implemented the Child Protection Information Sharing system across unscheduled care services and maternity.

All staff have access to support and advice from the safeguarding team which includes staff with specialist knowledge in safeguarding children, the unborn, adults, victims of domestic abuse and patients with a learning disability.

Safeguarding training

The Trust has a comprehensive programme of safeguarding training which is mandatory for all staff and which sets out the roles and responsibilities for everyone. Compliance with safeguarding training is monitored by the safeguarding committee. There is a dedicated learning and development lead for safeguarding who ensures that the requirements of the training guidance for safeguarding adults at risk and

safeguarding children and young people is met and that the content is reflective and adaptive to national and local drivers. Learning disability awareness is included within this programme.

Safeguarding supervision is in place to further support staff and to ensure that safeguarding processes are followed and that the views and wishes of the child, young person or adult are the focus of the decisions and care plan.

Safeguarding team

The RFLNHSFT safeguarding team comprises of a range of professionals with expertise in safeguarding adults at risk, safeguarding children, safeguarding in maternity services, supporting people with learning disabilities, a lead for learning and development, administrative support and independent advisors supporting victims of domestic abuse. The establishment of the team ensures that the trust complies with its responsibility to have named professionals in statutory posts.

The Safeguarding team provides education, support and advice on issues or concerns arising from the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS)

The Group Chief Nurse is the executive member of the board with responsibility for safeguarding.

Governance

The Integrated safeguarding committee meets every quarter and is chaired by the group chief nurse. The membership is made up of senior staff from each hospital site including the directors of nursing and representation from the clinical commissioning groups. The work of the committee is shaped by the safeguarding strategy and associated work plan. The aim of the committee is to monitor safeguarding activity across the trust and to ensure that the safeguarding team deliver against the work plan and any actions required from case review, audit, inspection or national and local directives.

The Trust provides assurance to the clinical commissioning groups via a quarterly report and to the RFLNHSFT board via an annual report

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