

# Safeguarding (1/2)

## Vision

**Our ICB safeguarding commitment** - Every person in the UK has the right to live their life in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Our responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our communities is at the heart of all the work we do. We work in partnership and collaboration with local authorities, the Police, NHS Trusts and many other organisations to safeguard children, young people, children looked after, care leavers and adults who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse and neglect.

## Deliverables / Improvements since 2023/24

- Completion of the ICB Safeguarding Review, which clarified and strengthened our safeguarding governance arrangements, particularly in relation to the new Working Together Statutory Guidance and Borough based safeguarding teams.
- Commissioned and co-designed a Safeguarding Leadership Programme. The programme is aimed at supporting new and emerging safeguarding leaders across the health and care system. The programme commences in Spring 2024.
- Developed an ICB Safeguarding Competency Strategy. The strategy sets out how the ICB will ensure safeguarding competence for all staff employed by the ICB.
- The ICB has continued to implement a programme of safeguarding supervision for its Designate Professionals, supporting them to reflect and learn on their role.
- The ICB has continued to enhance arrangements to facilitate delivery on the NHS England safeguarding work priorities. The delivery of the workplan is supported through the setting up of the ICB Safeguarding Professional's Network, and the ICB Children Looked After Professional's Network.
- The ICB has continued to be an exemplar organisation for the completion of the Safeguarding Case Review Tracker (S-CRT), a portal which records safeguarding statutory reviews and helps to identify themes and actions.

## Key Challenges / Opportunities Remaining

- Following on from the ICB Safeguarding Review, the ICB aims to extend this review to the Children Looked After governance arrangements in the near future. In addition to embed new ways of working
- The ICB plans to clarify the governance arrangements around the Serious Violence Duty, so that we can fully understand how we can best work with The NHS England (London) Violence Reduction Programme and our local Community Safety Partnerships in relation to reducing serious violence. There is an opportunity to develop and strengthen metrics.
- The ICB is currently reviewing its internal policies in relation to safeguarding. This includes policies around staff support for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Misconduct, as well as policies relating to the Mental Capacity Act and Prevent.
- Alongside colleagues in the ICB Quality Team, the ICB safeguarding professionals continue to develop revised governance arrangements relating to Child Deaths, thereby ensuring that the best possible learning arising from the reviews is both shared and enacted.
- The ICB will work towards building a safeguarding dashboard

# Safeguarding (2/2)

## Please describe any other key priorities for your area in 2025/26

- The ICB also plan to focus on the wider health offer to children looked after and children and young people leaving care. This is in addition to employment opportunities for care leavers. The ICB aims to support National drivers in relation to the care leavers health offer.
- The ICB will also continue to support the development of a local Emotional Wellbeing Service, for children and young people who may be traumatised though experiencing Child Sexual Abuse.
- The ICB will continues strengthening the delivery of national, regional and local programmes of work, for example, Domestic Abuse, Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Modern Slavery, Prevent and the Child Protection-Information System phase two.
- The ICB will continue to collaborate with the Integrated Care System including our safeguarding partnership and Boards within the SEL footprint.

## How will this contribute to population health and inequalities?

The landscape in which health services operate is complex, and ever-changing. Moreover, safeguarding processes are multifaceted and continue to evolve in line with legislation, policy, and new learning. The rapidly growing nature of the safeguarding agenda for vulnerable children and adults' places challenges on organisations including the ICB.

The priorities set out in this document aim to make a direct difference to people of all ages who may be experiencing abuse or neglect through a trauma informed approach. This includes both our staff and our wider population.

Quality Improvement work will be strengthened through our equality, diversity and inclusion lens running through our delivery of safeguarding and children looked after.

## How will this contribute to system sustainability?

Many of the safeguarding priorities set out in the Joint Forward Plan are directed at training, learning and staff development. The ICB recognises the importance of skills development and succession planning, particularly in relation to safeguarding leadership. The duty to safeguard is not directed at any one professional, it is incumbent in all NHS staff. The emphasis on training, development and supervision will support skills across the organisation and across the health sector.