



**Better Bolton.**



*Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group*

# **NHS Bolton CCG Annual Safeguarding Report for Children and Adults 2014 / 2015**

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## **1. Acknowledgment**

1.1 NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would like to take this opportunity to thank its partner agencies in working collaboratively in ensuring the agenda for both children's and adults is meeting its statutory responsibilities in safeguarding vulnerable people in Bolton between 2014 / 2015.

1.2 NHS Bolton CCG would like to thank both the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards in driving its responsibility across the Bolton health and social care economy.

1.3 NHS Bolton CCG would finally like to thank NHS England, the Greater Manchester Children's and Adult Safeguarding Network in identifying the safeguarding priorities across Greater Manchester CCG's and Local Authorities to enable us all to learn lessons, share knowledge, skills and expertise for assurance purposes.

## **2. Declaration**

2.1 The authors assert that NHS Bolton CCG Safeguarding Annual Report has not been published before and is a true record of the work that has been undertaken during 2014 / 2015. NHS Bolton CCG is not responsible for the content of the external links included in this report.

### 3. Index Tables

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### 4. List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

#### **Acronyms**

BSCB  
BASB  
CCG  
LAC  
CQC  
CDOP  
DoLS  
DoH  
DfE  
FGM  
GMP  
LSCB  
MCA  
NHS  
Ofsted  
SCR  
SAB  
VCFS

#### **Acronyms**

Bolton Safeguarding Children Board  
Bolton Adult Safeguarding Board  
Clinical Commissioning Group  
Children Looked After  
Care Quality Commission  
Child Death Overview Panel  
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards  
Department of Health  
Department for Education  
Female Genital Mutilation  
Greater Manchester Police  
Local Safeguarding Children's Board  
Mental Capacity Act  
National Health Service  
Office for Standard Education  
Serious Case Review  
Safeguarding Adult Board  
Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

## 5. Executive Summary

5.1 This report provides an overview of local developments and initiatives pertaining to safeguarding. It also describes how NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) seeks assurance that national guidance, policies and legislation are implemented to ensure the well-being and safety of children and vulnerable adults at risk in Bolton.

5.2 A network approach across Greater Manchester has been established to ensure delivery of some of the statutory safeguarding functions for children and young people.

5.3 Priorities for 2014 were:

- The impact of early help
- Children missing from home or care
- Child sexual exploitation.

5.4 In 2014/15 there were three times as many early help assessments than the previous year. Referrals to the Child Exploitation Team increased by 11% with an increase in the number of males referred. There has also been an increase in children missing from home or care of 90% in the last twelve months.

5.5 The Child Death Overview Panel reported 63 deaths in 2014/15 with common features identified as parents co-sleeping with their child, and /or smoking.

5.6 The publication of the Care Act in April 2015 modernised and consolidated the law on adult care in England into one statute.

5.7 NHS Bolton CCG Safeguarding Team has worked closely with the Quality and Safety Nurse to set up the Bolton Nursing Home Quality and Safeguarding Network.

5.8 As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, all providers have completed a self-assessment of their safeguarding arrangements and submit this to NHS Bolton CCG Safeguarding Team. Any gaps have resulted in the development of action plans which are monitored by the safeguarding leads.

5.9 Key Themes identified were:

- Mental Capacity Act / DoLS Awareness and implementation.
- Outdated policies and procedures in the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.
- To continue to monitor the safeguarding arrangements of commissioned services.
- Training in primary care and other NHS commissioned providers by the NHS Bolton CCG on safeguarding child and adults, MCA / DoLS and prevent.
- To explore alternative routes by which initial health assessments are commissioned for Looked After Children aged 16 -18 years; and implement a quality assurance process for health assessments which will inform commissioners of the health needs of this vulnerable group of young people

## **6. Background**

- 6.1 The twelve months from April 2014 / 2015 has seen NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) continue to ensure that the well-being and safety of children and vulnerable adults at risk in Bolton is a high priority.
- 6.2 NHS Bolton CCG continues to work across the Local Authority, Bolton Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards, NHS England and local health providers to meet NHS Bolton CCG business objectives.
- 6.3 The vision for safeguarding within NHS Bolton CCG is to maintain robust, resilient and effective safeguarding services and to strengthen arrangements for safeguarding children and adults across the Bolton health and social care economy by working with all partner agencies.

## **6 Introduction**

- 6.1 This is the second Annual Safeguarding Report of NHS Bolton CCG. This report provides a summary of how NHS Bolton CCG has been seeking assurance that national guidance, policies and revised or new legislation has been delivered across the Bolton health and social care economy in the year 2014 / 2015.

## **7. The National Context and Legislation**

7.1 In July 2015 the publication of NHS England Accountability and Assurance Framework, Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS clarified the roles and responsibilities of commissioning arrangements setting out clear safeguarding roles, duties and responsibilities of all organisations commissioning NHS health and social care. The framework has been refreshed in partnership with colleagues from across the health and social care system, the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Education (DfE); particularly recognising that the new responsibilities set out in the Care Act 2014 came into force on 1st April 2015.

## **8. The Framework & Safeguarding Children**

8.1 The framework places equal importance on the need to safeguard children and adults whilst meeting all statutory requirements.

8.2 The key legislation that governs the work of children safeguarding that partner agencies undertake is:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) – statutory guidance
- Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Looked after Children (2015) – statutory guidance
- Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competences for health care staff, intercollegiate document (2014)

8.3 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires CCGs to ensure their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that duty extends to all commissioned services.

## **9. Working Together to Safeguard Children**

9.1 March 2015 introduced the publication of the revised statutory guidance for Safeguarding Children, Working Together to Safeguard Children. The guidance will set out the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; it should also provide a clear framework for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services.

## **10. Revised National Guidance for Safeguarding Children**

10.1 In March 2015 there was the publication of the revised national guidance for safeguarding children. The guidance sets out the minimum training requirements for health organisations taking account of recent policy developments. The guidance emphasises the importance of maximising flexible learning opportunities to acquire and maintain knowledge and skills, drawing on lessons from research, case studies, learning reviews and analysis. In 2015 the priority area was to ensure that NHS Bolton CCG and commissioned services comply with the revised guidance.

## **11. Child Safeguarding Inspection Programme**

11.1 Following a decision by Ofsted to defer the start of a new multi-agency inspection regime for safeguarding and children looked after services, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) completed a two year programme of inspections (2013-2015) of safeguarding and children looked after services. The inspections focused on evaluating the quality and impact of local health arrangements for safeguarding children and improving healthcare for children who are looked after. This included mapping the child's journey at all stages – from pre-birth through to their transition to adulthood, and from the point of their entering or leaving care.

## **12. The Care Quality Commission (CQC)**

12.1 The CQC intend to complete six targeted inspections in locality areas by the end of March 2016. These targeted inspections will evaluate:

- How local agencies work together to protect children,
- Focus on specific areas of concern such as the sexual exploitation of children and young people.

### **13. Local Context – Pan Manchester Approach to Safeguarding**

13.1 The ten CCGs across Greater Manchester have agreed a network approach to the delivery of some of the statutory safeguarding functions as a means to promote resilience, reduce variations in provision, ensure consistency in delivery and enable the development of a sustainable and flexible commissioning safeguarding workforce.

13.2 NHS Bolton CCG supports the underpinning principles of a collaborative approach i.e. sharing best practice and learning, promoting consistency in practice with individual CCGs remaining accountable for managing their local safeguarding service.

### **14. Safeguarding Children**

14.1 Bolton Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. It also oversees arrangements for working collaboratively to bring about good outcomes for children and young people.

14.2 The BSCB has faced many challenges over the last twelve months due to a number of significant external factors including changes to the statutory guidance for safeguarding children, high profile media interest in child sexual exploitation cases and organisational restructuring in response to austerity measures within many member organisations.

14.3 NHS Bolton CCG makes a significant contribution to the work of the BSCB, not only financially but also through the work undertaken by the designated and professional leads for safeguarding. Such work includes contributing to and or chairing subgroups of the board; contributing to multi-agency audits and peer reviews; and providing the health perspective into serious case reviews and learning reviews.

## 15. Priorities for the Bolton Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)

15.1 Priorities for the BSCB for 2014 included the impact of early help, children missing from home or care and child sexual exploitation.

15.2 In 2014 / 15 three times as many early help assessments have been undertaken compared with the same period the previous year. This has resulted in a reduction in input from statutory services.

15.3 In 2014 / 15 there were 81 new referrals to the Phoenix Exit Team (The Specialist Team for Child Exploitation). This indicated an increase of 11% compared with the previous year. There has also been an increase in the number of males referred to the team.

15.4 There has been an increase in children missing from home or care of 90% in the last twelve months but this figure should be viewed with caution as there has been an improvement in data collection and sharing.

15.5 Further information on the work of the BSCB during the last twelve months can be found in the BSCB 2013 / 14 Annual Safeguarding Report which can be accessed on the following website available in table 1.

**Table 1: Bolton Children Board website for the Safeguarding Annual Report**

<b>Bolton Children Board website for the Safeguarding Annual Report</b>	<a href="http://www.botlonsafeguardingchildren.gov.uk">http://www.botlonsafeguardingchildren.gov.uk</a>
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## 16. Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

16.1 Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards are responsible for ensuring that a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) undertakes a review of each death of a child under 18 years old, normally resident in the BSCB area. Numbers of deaths are relatively small, so in order to improve identification of significant recurrent contributory factors, the Safeguarding Children’s Boards of Bolton, Salford and Wigan have come together with the aim of identifying any factors which could be modified to prevent or reduce the chances of a similar death in future.

16.3 There were a total of 63 childhood deaths notified to the CDOP in 2014 /15. As might be expected there are year on year variations.

16.4 During this period common features in the cases were that the parents smoked, or were co-sleeping with their child in a bed or settee. Genetic factors were linked to 2 cases.

16.5 The nature and intention of unexplained deaths in young people involves, in the main, adolescents. Coroners in Greater Manchester rarely record a finding of suicide.

16.6 Research is currently being carried out at the University of Manchester into deaths where illness was not the cause and there was no evidence of third party involvement.

## 17. Safeguarding Children Activity

17.1 In 2014 the number of children subject to a child protection plan has continued to show an increasing trend in numbers with a peak of 425.

17.2 In 2014 the BSCB carried out an audit to understand the factors influencing this increase and found that changing demographics and judicial changes were less significant than the emergence of unusually high numbers of large sibling groups and the ineffective use of early help processes. The categories of abuse are shown below in Table 2.

**Table 2: Annual Trend in Categories of Abuse of Children with a Protection Plan in 2014**

Category abuse	Bolton %	England %
Emotional abuse	45	33
Neglect	33	43
Physical abuse	18	10
Sexual abuse	4	5
Multiple	1	9

## 18. Serious Case Reviews / Multi-Agency Learning Reviews

18.1 When a child dies and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the death, the BSCB should always conduct a Serious Case Review (SCR). The purpose of the review is to identify improvements that are needed and to consolidate good practice with the findings from the reviews being translated into programmes of action with the aim of delivering sustainable improvements and the prevention of death, serious injury or harm to children.

18.2 In addition to undertaking SCR's, the BSCB also conducts reviews of cases which do not meet the criteria for a SCR, but can provide valuable lessons about how organisations are/are not working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

18.3 The BSCB Learning and Improvement sub group provides an open and secure environment to promote discussion and constructive challenge in respect of local practice to keep children safe.

18.4 The overview report on the learning can be accessed on the BSCB website as indicated in table 1. Learning from these serious case reviews will inform training and developments in practice across the county.

## **19. Children Looked After**

19.1 Children Looked After (LAC) are vulnerable to a range of poor health outcomes and can face particular difficulties in accessing health services. A new framework for the planning and commissioning of health services for LAC provide for joint working across agencies to achieve a more integrated approach and for ensuring the health needs of children placed outside of their originating area are met effectively.

19.2 As of March 2015, the rate of Looked after Children had increased by 9%. It will be important to explore this increase in further detail in 2015 / 16 and consider implications for local services should it continue.

19.3 When children are placed in care by local authorities, their responsible health commissioner has a statutory responsibility to commission an initial health assessment and conduct six monthly or yearly reviews. When the child is placed out of area, the originating commissioner retains this responsibility. The purpose of the health assessment is to enable the child to have his or her health needs assessed holistically and to develop a plan to meet these needs; it should be seen as part of continuous activity to ensure the provision of high quality health care and not just an isolated event.

19.4 In recognition that NHS Bolton CCG has a statutory responsibility to ensure that initial and review health assessments are undertaken within agreed timescales, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust is commissioned to co-ordinate the delivery of statutory health assessments.

19.5 Priority areas for development during 2016 will be to explore alternative routes by which initial health assessments are commissioned for children 16 -18 years; and implementing a quality assurance process for health assessments which can also inform commissioners of the health needs of this vulnerable group of young people.

19.6 Although the new commissioning arrangements create additional complexities in promoting the health and well-being of children looked after, they also provide opportunities as local authorities are now required (through their new public health role) to make services available to children looked after, including those they are hosting in out of area placements.

## **20. Safeguarding Adults**

20.1 The Care Bill 2014 will place a legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the healthcare system protect adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. The Bill will put Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) on a statutory footing whilst maintaining their freedom to operate locally in a flexible way. Furthermore, adult reviews will be made mandatory when certain triggering situations have occurred and the parties believe that safeguarding failures have had a part to play. Further, councils will soon have a corporate duty to make safeguarding enquiries; it places a duty to co-operate over the supply of information on relevant agencies; and places a duty of candour on providers about failings in hospital and care setting.

20.2 Until recently (14<sup>th</sup> May 2014) there was no single coherent framework to bring the adult safeguarding agenda to its forefront in line with the children's agenda. The Care Act 2014 gained Royal Assent in 2014 and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

20.3 Prior to the introduction of the Care Act there was a duty for NHS organisations to comply with a range of legislation. These included:

- The Serious Crime Act 2015,
- Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015,
- The Equality Act 2010,
- The Human Rights Act 1998,
- Health and Social Care Act 2008,
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty safeguards (2009) and
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

- The Mental Health Act 1983 / 2007

20.4 Providers of health and social care services are also required to comply with the Care Quality Commission Essential Standards for Quality and Safety to ensure that people who receive services are protected and receive the expected level of care and support that they need.

## **21. Care Act 2014**

21.1 The definition of adult 'Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time ensuring that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and belief in deciding any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.'

21.2 The Care Act 2014 modernises and consolidates the law on adult care in England into one statute and has been described as the biggest change to the social care law in 60 years. The Care Act came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

21.3 Key Drivers for the NHS Bolton CCG Safeguarding team is to work closely with the Quality and Safety Nurse (NHS Bolton CCG) who set up the Bolton Nursing Home Quality and Safeguarding Network. The function of this group is to offer nursing homes the opportunity to network, to receive regular updates about key issues and to discuss and learn from incidents. As well as practitioner support to this group, the Safeguarding Team also offer administrative support. NHS Bolton CCG work closely with NHS Bolton CCG Complaints Department as this can often be the route that a care or safeguarding concern is raised.

21.4 In the context of adult safeguarding the Care Act also requires that:

- Bolton Council will lead on Safeguarding Enquires
- Bolton Council will establish a Safeguarding Adults Boards (BSAB) and key partners are the Local Authority, NHS Bolton CCG, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
- Bolton Council will undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews
- Supply of information from partner agencies

## 22. Mental Capacity Act (MCA) / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

22.1 The Specialist Safeguarding Adult's Practitioner is the lead for MCA and DoLS across the Bolton health economy. This includes GP Practices, nursing homes and other healthcare providers' services commissioned by NHS Bolton CCG. The Specialist Safeguarding Adult Practitioner works closely with the Adult Safeguarding Lead at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust to ensure training and development is a key priority in this area since the case law of Cheshire West and Chester Council v P (2014).

## 23. Adult Self-Neglect

23.1 Since April 2014 Members of the Early Intervention and Prevention sub-group have been involved in writing a specific policy and practice guidance on self-neglect, in response to this request being made by various practitioners and agencies within the borough of Bolton. This policy is currently in draft form and will be introduced to the Safeguarding Adult Board in September 2015 for ratification.

## 24. Prevent

24.1 The Prevent Duty is applicable to all NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts which will become statute on 1 July 2015. The Specialist Practitioner for Safeguarding Adults is the Prevent Lead who is working with Greater Manchester CCG Adult Safeguarding leads to share learning and develop guidance and networks that facilitate referrals from their organisation in to Channel. The Specialist Practitioner for Safeguarding Adults also seeks advice and support from the Regional Prevent Coordinator from NHS England.

## 25. Bolton Safeguarding Adult Board Priorities

25.1 The BSAB's vision sets out the overarching aims for the partnership: ***'People should be able to live a life free from harm, abuse and exploitation'***.

25.2 The BSAB's statement of purpose that underpins this vision is to:

- Prevent abuse and neglect happening within the community and in service settings.
- Promote the safeguarding interests of adults at risk to enable their wellbeing and safety.

- Respond effectively and consistently to instances of abuse and neglect.

25.3 The core purpose of the Board is to protect adults who are at risk, but to also have a key responsibility to promote the wider agenda of safeguarding and prevention through ensuring safeguarding is everybody's responsibility in our organisations and communities. To achieve this organisations need a co-ordinated and timely response to reports of abuse, and also need to work towards creating a community where abuse is not tolerated and people are free to speak out.

25.4 **Key challenges** for BSAB and therefore NHS Bolton CCG as part of the multiagency partnership are:

- capacity to respond to increased DoLS activity
- evidence of MCA compliance for CQC inspection and response to the house of lords recommendations and supreme court judgements
- strategic and operational management of cases of self-neglect
- hearing and responding to the voice of service users and their families
- promoting interagency collaboration, challenge and response
- responding appropriately to budget constraints and ensuring best value services are maintained and developed.

## 26. **Safeguarding Adult Activity**

26.1 Up to date data on the number of safeguarding adult alerts and the percentage of alerts progressing to a safeguarding investigation can be found within Bolton Council's Annual Report ([link website](#)). The report also includes other information related to adult safeguarding outcomes.

26.2 As commissioners, NHS Bolton CCG is required to ensure that adult placements are based on quality of care and safeguarding concerns, therefore health and social care colleagues are working collaboratively to develop and implement systems and processes that support a proactive approach to safeguarding. This includes proactively monitoring the number of alerts and other early warning signs to enable early intervention and the development of shared action plans in partnership with providers.

26.3 NHS Bolton CCG safeguarding team has been actively involved in developing multi-agency safeguarding arrangements aimed at engaging nursing home providers within the safeguarding process. This has included direction on learning and development, identification of gaps in practice, empowerment of care providers to be equal partners in their safeguarding contributions and the development of a set of common tools and processes to support providers in managing quality and safeguarding processes and in supporting early intervention in commissioned services.

## **27. Safeguarding Governance**

27.1 The Chief Officer of NHS Bolton CCG is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the statutory duties to safeguard children and adults across the health economy are effectively discharged. Board level responsibility for safeguarding sits with the Chief Nurse, NHS Bolton CCG.

27.2 Following significant investment into the safeguarding service during 2014 / 2015 NHS Bolton CCG is supported in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities. The safeguarding team consists of:

- Associate Director of Safeguarding (whose role incorporates the functions of the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding),
- A Safeguarding Adult / Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and PREVENT Lead,
- A Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner for children,
- Named GP for safeguarding children.

In addition to this, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust is commissioned to deliver Designated Doctor roles for safeguarding children and children looked after and designated nurse for children looked after. There are plans for the Designated Nurse for children looked after role to be transferred into Bolton CCG in 2015. .

27.3 To strengthen NHS Bolton CCG's current safeguarding arrangements, a sub group reporting directly to the Quality and Safety Committee has been established. The sub group will provide governance, oversight, challenge and scrutiny to the safeguarding arrangements of all commissioned services.

27.4 During 2014 the Bolton Quality Contract for Primary Care was developed and came into force in April 2015. The aim of the contract is to deliver improvement in the quality of primary

care services and includes standards to support General Practice to fulfil their duty to cooperate with current legislation concerning safeguarding. This is innovative and unique to Bolton.

## 28. Safeguarding Assurance in Relation to Commissioned Services

28.1 A key responsibility for NHS Bolton CCG is to ensure that the organisations from which they commission services provide safe systems that safeguard children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. In seeking this assurance NHS Bolton CCG monitors health care providers against a set of regionally agreed safeguarding standards. All providers were asked to complete a self-assessment of their safeguarding arrangements and had submitted their returns by 31st March 2014. Any gaps in arrangements resulted in the development of action plans which are monitored by the safeguarding leads.

28.2 Key themes identified across all commissioned services included training; Mental Capacity Act (MCA) awareness and implementation; and within the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) an additional theme was that of outdated policies and procedures. The safeguarding team is supporting those VCFS organisations that need to strengthen their safeguarding arrangements.

28.3 A priority for 2015-16 will be to further develop the assurance process ensuring that it is proportionate and appropriate for the services being commissioned and to focus on the safeguarding arrangements within care homes with nursing.

28.4 In addition, NHS Bolton CCG seek assurance as to the safeguarding arrangements of all provider services, NHS and social care providers are required to comply with the Care Quality Commission Essential Standards for Quality and Safety of which outcome seven is specific to safeguarding people who use services from abuse.

28.5 You can access Bolton Council's Adult Safeguarding Report on the following website as described in table 3.

**Table 3: Bolton Adult Safeguarding Annual Report Website**

<b>Bolton Council Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report Website</b>	<a href="http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Safeguardingadultsatrisk.aspx">http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Safeguardingadultsatrisk.aspx</a>
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28.6 Bolton Foundation Trust Safeguarding Annual Report can be accessed from the following website as described in table 4.

**Table 4: Bolton Foundation Trust Safeguarding Annual Report Website**

<b>Bolton Foundation Trust Safeguarding Annual Report Website</b>	<a href="http://www.boltonft.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-publications-and-declarations/annual-report/">http://www.boltonft.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-publications-and-declarations/annual-report/</a>
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## 29. Summary of Key Priority Areas for 2015 / 2016

29.1 The purpose of any annual report is to provide the reader with a comprehensive picture of an organisation's activity in the preceding year and to gain a sense of their priorities and challenges for the coming year. NHS Bolton CCG safeguarding team hopes this report demonstrates how we have met a number of challenges in 2014-15.

### 29.2 Key Priority Areas / challenges for 2015-16

- Plurality of providers and the monitoring of safeguarding contract standards.
- The Co-Commissioning arrangements for Primary Medical Care in 2015 / 16 and for these arrangements to extend to Dental Services in 2016/17
- The safeguarding implications of Devolution Manchester.
- Capacity within Safeguarding Team to respond to the increasing safeguarding requirements from DH, DfE, and local NHSE area team in areas such as FGM (now a contractual requirement), Children who are Trafficked, The Prevent (Contest) Agenda, rising numbers of children looked after and E-Safety.

29.3 NHS Bolton CCG's plans are constantly evolving to keep up with current trends and legislation and it is our continued aim to make significant strides towards achieving the best outcomes for vulnerable adults and children.

29.4 Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS- Accountability and Assurance Framework will come into effect in 2015. In line with this Framework, NHS Bolton CCG will seek assurances from organisations that they have effective safeguarding arrangements in place.

## **30. Conclusion**

30.1 This annual report has provided an insight into local developments and initiatives pertaining to safeguarding that have taken place during the last twelve months. In doing so it aims to provide assurance to the Governing Body that NHS Bolton CCG is fully committed to ensuring they meet their statutory duties and responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm. The report has also outlined priority areas for the coming year. These are listed in table 5.

### 31. Priority Areas

**Table 5: Priority Areas for NHS Bolton CCG**

Priority Areas	Lead	Timescale
1. To ensure that NHS Bolton CCG continues to meet all the statutory duties in regards to safeguarding children, adults and MCA.	Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner (children). Specialist Adult Safeguarding Lead.	2015 / 2016
2. To continue to monitor the safeguarding arrangements of commissioned services and to seek out ways to improve quality and safety, including contributing to the quality visits to provider organisations led by NHS Bolton CCG quality team.	Specialist Adult Safeguarding Lead to work closely with the Quality and Safety Lead and develop intelligent forums with the local authority and NHS Bolton CCG. Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner (children).	2015 / 2016
3. To further develop the assurance process for Vulnerable Adult protection ensuring that it is proportionate and appropriate for the services being commissioned and to focus on the safeguarding arrangements within care homes with nursing.	The Specialist Adult Safeguarding Lead to work closely with the NHS Bolton CCG contracts manager, commissioners, Continuing HealthCare (CHC) manager and Quality and Safety Lead in setting up appropriate forums and groups.	2015 / 2016
4. Ensure NHS Bolton CCG complies with national and local guidance in respect of safeguarding training following the revised publication of the Intercollegiate Document (2015).	NHS Bolton CCG Safeguarding Team to lead on this with the support of NHS England and Greater Manchester Children and Adult Safeguarding network.	2015 / 2016

<p>5. To explore alternative routes by which initial health assessments are commissioned for children 16 -18 years; and implement a quality assurance process for health assessments which will inform commissioners of the health needs of this vulnerable group of young people</p>	<p>Designated Doctor and Nurse for Children Looked After</p>	<p>2015 / 2016</p>
<p>6. To work collaboratively with partner agencies to address learning and identified themes within the safeguarding agenda.</p>	<p>The Specialist Safeguarding Leads to work in partnership with the local authority and attendance at the learning lessons subgroup for the safeguarding boards.</p>	<p>2015 / 2016</p>
<p>Training in primary care and other NHS commissioned providers by the NHS Bolton CCG on safeguarding child and adults, MCA / DoLS and prevent</p>	<p>Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner (children). Specialist Adult Safeguarding Lead. Named GP safeguarding children</p>	<p>2015 / 2016</p>

## 32. References

Guidance about Compliance: Essential Standards of Quality and Safety. Care Quality Commission

NHS England (2015) Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS: Accountability and Assurance Framework.

HM Government (2015) Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of General Practitioners (2015) Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competencies for health staff. Intercollegiate Document

### **Website**

**Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/safeguarding-accountability-assurance-framework.pdf>

### **Case Law**

Cheshire West and Chester Council v P (2014)