

North East London Commissioning Alliance

Safeguarding Strategy: Children & Adults

2018-2022

Author	Organisation
Designated Doctors and Nurses for Safeguarding Children/Looked After Children and Designated Professionals for Adults	Barking, Havering and Redbridge CCG; City & Hackney CCG; Waltham Forest CCG; Newham CCG; and Tower Hamlets CCG.

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1 Overview

North East London Commissioning Alliance (NELCA) incorporates Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), City & Hackney CCG, Newham CCG, Tower Hamlets CCG and Waltham Forest CCG. Each CCG has a statutory duty to ensure that it makes arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children & young people and to protect adults at risk from abuse or neglect in accordance with the Children Act (1989, 2004) and the Care Act (2014).

This safeguarding strategy has been developed by the adult and children designated safeguarding professionals across the seven CCGs. It sets out our approach to ensure that our local populations receive high quality and safe health care.

The safeguarding strategy aims to ensure that children and adults at risk will be effectively safeguarded against abuse, neglect, discrimination or poor treatment and treated with dignity and respect for their human rights. The need to ensure that a child's journey and voice is clearly heard and that safeguarding is personal for adults and is central to all safeguarding practice.

Key changes and focus areas involve developing the emerging safeguarding partnership arrangements and supporting the implementation of both the children and adult safeguarding board priorities.

The NELCA Commissioning Strategy sets out the vision and approach for commissioning integrated services across the NELCA footprint. Our Safeguarding Strategy aligns with this document and focusses on our collective approach to safeguarding.

Each CCG has nominated adult and children designated safeguarding professionals who provide strategic clinical leadership, support and maintain close links with safeguarding leads in NHSE.

All work streams have GP involvement to ensure that our plans are clinically informed to address local issues to ensure better care and quality for our patients.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) teams work within all CCGs to ensure that the patient and carer's voice is captured throughout the commissioning process.

The definitions of safeguarding for adults, children and Looked after Children are set out in Appendix 1.

2 Safeguarding Principles

The Children Act 1989 states that the child's welfare is paramount when considering any decisions about a child.

The London Child Protection Procedures state that effective safeguarding arrangements should aim to meet the following key principles:

- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility – “for services to be effective each individual and organisation should play their full part”.
- A child centered approach – “for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children”.

The Care Act 2014 outlined six key principles fundamental to adult safeguarding, which apply to any settings and should be embedded within safeguarding processes and procedures:

- Empowerment – enabling people to be supported and encouraged to take part in the decision-making process and be allowed to give consent to any decision made about them. The process should focus on a positive outcome-based approach that advocates empowerment and personalisation.
- Prevention – the focus should be on taking the appropriate action before any harm occurs.
- Proportionality – focus on the least restrictive options to prevent harm and ensure that there is a balance having systems in place that protect the person whilst addressing the risk presented.
- Protection – ensuring that people who have the greatest need are represented and supported.
- Partnership – provision of services through working with other local communities who are part of the prevention, detection and reporting of any abuse and neglect.
- Accountability – promoting a culture of transparency and professional accountability in implementing and delivering safeguarding where roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.

3. National and Local Safeguarding Priorities

National Priorities

As the safeguarding agenda is continuously developing, in both its complexity and scope, these are reflected in legislation and national revised guidance. NHS England (NHSE) key safeguarding priorities for 2018/19 are to:

- Implement and monitor compliance for a corporate safeguarding training and education package for NHSE key staff requiring Level 2 and above safeguarding training as per the Intercollegiate Guidance.
- Implement the changes required for the Domestic Abuse Bill 2018, providing leadership across the health economy, working in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care, Regional Safeguarding Team and NHS Improvement.

- Develop an implementation plan for the Mental Capacity and Liberty Protection Safeguards in providing leadership across the health sector, working in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care.
- Embed the Child Protection Information Sharing (CP-IS) system across health and social care, working with NHS Digital, NHS Improvement and local leadership to incorporate CP-IS into patient care.
- Embed the Prevent programme of training and education across health in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office.
- Develop robust safeguarding mechanisms within Military Health arrangements, working in partnership with NHSE South, NHSE Regional Safeguarding Teams and the Ministry of Defence.
- Develop robust working arrangements for the integration of safeguarding practices across NHSE and NHS Improvement.
- Continue to raise awareness of Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation (CSA/E) across health, working in partnership with NHSE London region.
- Implement the changes required for the Children and Social Work Act 2017, working in partnership with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS Improvement to monitor safeguarding partnership arrangements and safeguarding assurance across health.
- Embed the Female Genital Mutilation Information System (FGM-IS) across health and social care working with NHS Digital, NHS Improvement and local leadership to incorporate FGM-IS into patient care.

Local Priorities

Our local context is imperative to developing strategic safeguarding priorities. Each CCG is involved in identifying local safeguarding priorities with their Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adult Boards.

Each CCG will identify local safeguarding priorities which will be informed through their multi-agency monitoring and assurance processes.

Where the national priorities are applicable to the local landscape, they will be aligned to local safeguarding priorities.

4. Strategic Focus and Core Priorities

This section sets out the strategic and core priority areas for safeguarding across NELCA.

Strategic Focus

Our areas for strategic focus are set out below (see Figure 1).

- Assurance and system leadership
- Safeguarding partnerships
- Embedding safeguarding within the commissioning cycle



Above: Figure 1 – Strategic Focus and Core Priorities

Assurance and System Leadership

We ensure that safeguarding is visible in all of our contracts and utilise a variety of methods to gain assurance from our providers. We work closely with our partners to ensure a consistent safeguarding approach across all services.

We will secure the expertise of designated safeguarding professionals on behalf of the local health system. The designated role is to work across the local system to provide clinical leadership and support to other professionals on all aspects of safeguarding. They will

advise and support the CCG, local authority, NHSE and local safeguarding partnership arrangements.

Safeguarding Partnerships

We aim to work collaboratively with safeguarding partners to ensure that there are safe and effective local safeguarding arrangements which capture the voice of service users including children to shape and steer the design of our services.

We will work with our safeguarding partners across our local footprints to ensure that national and local safeguarding priorities are delivered.

Embedding Safeguarding within the Commissioning Cycle

Through the commissioning processes, we will ensure that safeguarding is a core component of all services design, redesign and delivery. We will ensure that we have in place systems and processes to demonstrate compliance with safeguarding duties.

Core Priorities

Our core priority areas are as follows:

- Ensuring an appropriately trained and supported workforce
- Strengthening leadership and governance
- Learning, developing, monitoring and improvement
- Patient/community engagement

5. Delivering Core Priorities

Priority 1

Ensuring an appropriately trained, supported and resilient workforce, who feel confident to recognise and act effectively to protect children and adults at risk of harm.

To achieve an appropriately trained workforce we will ensure that the CCG and our healthcare providers work in line with adult and children intercollegiate guidance that includes:

- Developing and implementing a safeguarding training strategy
- Local training needs analysis
- A training offer in line with skills, knowledge and competence required or the role and level of responsibility
- A recording system to evidence that staff are appropriately trained
- Local systems and processes to evaluate the training and measure the impact of training on practice

Priority 2

Strengthening leadership and governance to ensure there are clear lines of leadership and accountability across the system in relation to safeguarding. This will be in line with statutory requirements.

To achieve this, we will ensure that safeguarding leadership is visible, responsive & proactive and that roles & lines of accountability are clear and effective:

- We will ensure that people within these roles have appropriate skills, knowledge and competence.
- We will have in place governance and framework structures to support and monitor the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.
- We will ensure that the CCG and providers work collaboratively with other agencies to ensure that children and adults are protected from harm and their wellbeing is promoted.
- We will ensure that there is an escalation process to support staff to raise concerns and/or constructively manage differences of opinion.

Priority 3

Learning, developing, monitoring and improvement to ensure that we are clear about our responsibilities to learn from experience and to improve services:

- We will ensure that the CCGs and health care providers of NHS services within NELCA are safe, effective and protect the well-being of service users.
- We will ensure that our service design and delivery reflects learning from child safeguarding practice reviews and safeguarding adult reviews.
- We will use external learning to improve practice.
- We will work with our partners to develop and implement a consistent safeguarding monitoring and improvement framework.
- We will use this data and intelligence to monitor performance. This data will enhance our ability to identify areas of potential risk and put in place plans to improve.

Priority 4

Patient /community engagement: to ensure that the voice of the service user is consistently captured and used to inform service delivery and/or design.

- To achieve this, we will use a variety of mechanisms to gather the experiences and feedback of service users and communities. We will use this to shape and improve services.
- We will work collaboratively with partner agencies that already collect a wide range of information from children, young people, families and adult service users.
- We will use this information to influence the design and delivery of services.

6. Monitoring the Strategy

Monitoring of the strategy will be through the local CCG safeguarding governance arrangements, safeguarding partnership arrangements and submissions to NHSE and regulators as required.

7. Conclusion

This is the first NELCA safeguarding strategy, developed by the children and adult designated safeguarding professionals. The strategy sets out our strategic focus and core priorities. Whilst ensuring that the legislative requirements are met, at its heart, the strategy recognises that working in collaboration with our health care providers and safeguarding partners is a fundamental requirement underpinning all safeguarding arrangements.

8. References

[Children Act 2004](#)

[Care Act 2014](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

[NHSE Annual; Safeguarding Update 2018](#)

[Looked After Children Knowledge Skills and Competencies for Health Care Staff 2015](#)

[Adult Safeguarding Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff 2018](#)

[Safeguarding children Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff 2019](#)

[Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)

[Domestic Abuse Bill 2018](#)

[Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)

Appendix One: Definitions of Safeguarding Children, Looked After Children and Adults

Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe & effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)

Looked After Children

A child who is looked after by a local authority is defined in Section 22 of the Children Act (1989) as "A child who is subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order or who is accommodated by a Local Authority".

(Department Health 2015)

Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults with care and support needs is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Protecting an adults right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
- People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect
- Ensuring that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action

This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.