



*Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

# **Safeguarding Children and Adults Strategy**

**2016 - 2019**

## **Introduction:**

### **Safeguarding is everyone's business**

This strategy has been informed by local and national guidance and will articulate the 3 year vision of how the safeguarding team within NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), will prioritise the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults across all commissioned and contracted services.

We are passionate about safeguarding our most vulnerable members of society and through the implementation of this safeguarding strategy, the CCG aims to ensure that safeguarding adults, children and young people is at the heart of the commissioning cycle. This includes the CCG's commissioning and contracting decisions where a proactive approach ensures safeguarding is threaded throughout this process.

This strategy is consistent with the overall vision of the CCG "To develop outstanding, innovative and equitable health and social care services, ensuring excellence and value in delivery of person centred care working across both health and social care."

## **Definitions:**

**Safeguarding** is a continuum, which captures notions of both 'promoting welfare' and 'protecting from harm or abuse'. Services should be provided in a caring, compassionate and professionally competent manner that promotes the person's wellbeing, by maximising their opportunities for choice and control, promoting their dignity and enhancing their quality of life.

A **child** is anyone who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently, or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection' ([Working Together 2015](#))

An **adult at risk** is a person over the age of 18 who needs community care services because of mental health issues or other disability, age or illness and who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves, when faced with significant harm or exploitation. The term replaces 'vulnerable adult'. ([Care Act 2014 revised March 2016](#))

## **Our aims are:**

To ensure that children and adults at risk are safeguarded by the services which are commissioned to deliver their care.

To work with partner agencies to achieve outcomes which focus on improving the life chances for children and adults.

To continue to promote a culture which engenders challenge in order to obtain the best outcomes for children and adults

In order to achieve our aims, we will be proactive in driving forward the safeguarding agenda and continue to promote strong working arrangements with other key stakeholders, these include:

- Service users and members of the community
- Local healthcare providers
  - North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
  - South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
  - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
  - North East Ambulance Service
  - Substance Misuse Services
  - Sexual Health Services
  - Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- Local partner agencies
  - Police
  - Fire
  - Education
  - Probation
  - Housing
  - Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authority
  - Children's Services
  - Adult Services
  - Public Health
- Safeguarding Boards
  - Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB)
  - Hartlepool Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)
  - Tees Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)

## **Legal Framework**

CCGs have a range of statutory duties in relation to safeguarding adults and children and are required to demonstrate they have appropriate systems in place to fulfil these requirements. The statutory duties are outlined within the context of the law and guidance: [Children Act 1989](#), [2004](#), [Care Act 2014](#), [Mental Capacity Act](#), which also incorporates the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010, Mental Health Act 1983 and the New Code of Practice 2015.

NHS England [Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS - Accountability and Assurance Framework](#) outlines the CCG's responsibilities for safeguarding adults and children. The CCG is committed to identifying and responding to the local needs of children and adults where vulnerability, harm, abuse or neglect features in their lives as both actual and potential concerns.

## **What we will do?**

- Proactively seek the views of children, young people, adults and their carers to influence the future commissioning of services
- Comply with current and newly developed national statutory requirements for safeguarding adults and children
- Comply with regulatory bodies including:
  - Care Quality Commission (CQC)
  - Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
  - General Medical Council (GMC)
  - Monitor
- Provide leadership for safeguarding across NHS and partner organisations
- Ensure robust monitoring and accountability arrangements for safeguarding across the health and social care economy
- Work in partnership with and provide supporting evidence to the assurance organisations of the work undertaken, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk
- Positively embrace and act upon any learning highlighted during audit and assurance processes undertaken by:
  - Audit North
  - NHS England
  - Healthwatch

## **How will we do it?**

- Through effective multi-agency working, take account of the views and experiences of the most vulnerable members of our communities to inform service planning
- Establish the views and wishes of service users during Commissioner Assurance Visits to each Provider Trust
- Ensure up to date Safeguarding Children and Adults policies are in place, including safe recruitment of staff and whistle-blowing
- Work with partner organisations to influence safeguarding arrangements and priorities across the health economy
- Obtain assurance from commissioned provider services on identified National and Local Quality Requirements
- Supporting continuous improvement by augmenting the Local Quality Requirements on an annual basis as part of the commissioning process
- Review serious incidents and participate in serious case reviews to identify lessons learned and cascade the learning across organisations
- Work in collaboration with the Local Authority and other partner organisations to continually monitor and review the quality of services to vulnerable groups through our governance and quality assurance processes
- Facilitate the implementation of new projects across the Tees safeguarding landscape
- Continue to participate and proactively influence developments in safeguarding through attendance at sub-groups across both children and adult services

- Produce an annual report detailing progress against the Safeguarding Children and Adults Strategy and priorities for the forthcoming year

List of References:

[Working Together 2015](#)

[Care Act 2014 revised March 2016](#)

[Children Act 1989, 2004](#)

[Care Act 2014](#)

[Mental Capacity Act](#)

[Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS - Accountability and Assurance Framework](#)