

Safeguarding Annual Report for the period 2019/20 Executive Summary

The Safeguarding Annual report for 2019/20 has previously been presented to the Quality Committee and Safeguarding Steering Group.

Sherwood Forest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (SFHFT) has a statutory responsibility for ensuring that the services provided by the organisation have safe and effective systems in place which safeguard adults, children and young people at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The aim of the report is to summarise the safeguarding activity within Sherwood Forest Hospital Foundation Trust (SFHFT) during the period 2019/20. This activity was analysed against set objectives which are in line with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board (NSAB) and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) reporting requirements and National/Legal requirements e.g. Care Act 2014, Children Act 1989/2004 and set actions for the next year (2019-2020).

Furthermore, the report aims to:

- Provide assurance to the Trust board that the Trust is fulfilling its safeguarding obligations
- Assure service commissioners & regulators e.g. CQC and NHS Improvement that the Trust's activity over the year has developed in terms of preventing abuse and reducing harm; as well as embedding MCA/DOLS into clinical practice using the model of 'Making Safeguarding Personal' and ensuring that the 'Voice of the Child' is heard
- Appraise the Trust staff & managers regarding the activity and function of the safeguarding team and the support it provides to operational and clinical service delivery
- Ensure that patients, service users and carers know that safeguarding of children and adults is a Trust priority

The report evidences the Trust responses to some of the high profile safeguarding issues that were of local and national focus during 2019/20 which included child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, modern slavery, making safeguarding personal, MCA/DOLS and domestic violence.

The report evidences full compliance with identification and reporting in these issues, along with developments and awareness raising strategies in all areas except MCA assessments. MCA assessments were reviewed by 360 assurance during this reporting period and found to provide limited assurance, during 2019/20 and moving into the next reporting period strategies for resolution and development have been a key focus for the Trust.

Safeguarding training is a statutory requirement and mandatory within the Trust, the report evidences the completion of a 3 year trajectory to ensure all staff are trained appropriately and able to respond to safeguarding issues confidently and safely. The report highlights the achievements and evidences full compliance in this area. A way of evidencing knowledge and training in this area is via appropriate and timely referrals where safeguarding issues are identified, the report demonstrates the Trust referral rates which when reviewed are appropriate, timely and of a good quality.

The report highlights the work we do with our statutory partners and also voluntary agencies. We actively engage with the safeguarding business in respect of adults and children.

The data provided within the report evidences the work done throughout the year and enables us to review trends and themes and respond appropriately.

The report also summaries the work done within the other areas of vulnerability; which sit within the safeguarding team:

- Learning Disabilities
- Dementia
- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence

There have been significant developments in all areas including the development of a Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) role, which links with our voluntary partners to ensure a seamless transition into safety and support for patients and sometimes staff who are victims of domestic violence. This service was implemented mid-way through the reporting period and will be fully evaluated in the next year.

Safeguarding and vulnerability are an ever evolving area, along with responding to our statutory requirements we strive to keep abreast of the changing landscape. The next 18 months will see a transition from Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) this will have a significant impact for acute health services from both a legal and resource perspective. It was anticipated that this would require full implementation by October 2020 but the government have recently indicated this will be delayed until April 2022 with some transition required during 2021. The scoping of implications will be a significant piece of work during the next year.

In acknowledging the work that has already taken place and seeks to strengthen our approach to 2020-2021 the integrated safeguarding team have set targets alongside the Strategic objectives of the Trust, these will be:

- Implementation of a Safeguarding Think Family audit plan, which will focus on being able to bench mark safeguarding standards set out in the Markers of Good practice and SAAF and be responsive to the priorities as set out by the NSAB and NSCP.
- Develop and begin to implement the organisational legislative responsibilities as set out within the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS).
- Ensure where there are safeguarding concerns adults, children and carers are recognised as partners in the outcomes they wish to happen. This will focus around Making Safeguarding Personal and the Voice of the Child.
- Further embed and evaluate the integrated hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) role.
- Review how organisationally SFHFT supports the health and wellbeing of its workforce particularly in relation to domestic abuse and mental health.
- Continue to embed organisational learning through mandatory training, serious incidents and adult/child reviews.
- Learn lessons from the COVID19 pandemic and where possible use the learning to inform the way forward in terms of working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.