

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULT DECLARATION 2021

Solutions 4 Health (S4H) is committed to its role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. The safety and welfare of children and adults who come into contact with our services either directly or indirectly is paramount and all staff have a responsibility to ensure that best practice is followed, including compliance with statutory requirements.

Within S4H safeguarding responsibilities include service users who are under the age of 18 years, children who are carers or parents, or are the children of service users and adults.

**Definition of an adult at risk:** Aged 18 years or over; Who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Section 11 of the Children Act (2004) and the Care Act (2014) places a duty on every organisation delivering health services to have arrangements in place to ensure that the organisation and all staff working within it have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. S4H regularly reviews its arrangements against these requirements and is compliant with them.

All staff within Solutions4Health have a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of service users and colleagues. Living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental human right and an essential requirement for health and well-being. Safeguarding is about the safety and well-being of all our service users but providing additional measures for those least able to protect themselves from harm or abuse.

Safeguarding is a fundamental part of patient safety and wellbeing and therefore integral to complying with legislation, regulations and delivering cost effective care.

### SAFER EMPLOYMENT

S4H uses the Safer Recruitment system when recruiting staff to work with children and adults at risk of harm. This process includes the use of the enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as part of the vetting process. References and work history are always checked before an offer of employment is made.

Safer recruitment and selection training are mandatory for all appointing officers. S4H has a nominated lead for addressing allegations relating to children or adults at risk. They work closely with the Designated Officer for Local Authorities if concerns arise.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

S4H's Safeguarding policies for adults and children guide staff around their practice. The policies have been written in accordance with the national legislative framework Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and the Care Act (2014).

S4H services have clinical record flagging systems to highlight children or adults at risk where safeguarding concerns have been identified as well as those that have known vulnerabilities and where additional support is being required. All staff have access to refer children, families, or adults at risk to partner agencies for additional support should they be assessed as requiring this.

Staff have access to the Named Nurses or Director of Nursing and Safeguarding for supervision when they are concerned about the welfare of children or an adult at risk. They also have access to S4H's children and adult safeguarding policies as well as access to online material such as the Local Safeguarding Partnership Boards policies. The local Children and Adult Social Services will provide advice where there are concerns around the welfare of children or adults at risk and a possible need for referral. Online referral forms and access to S4H and Local Safeguarding Partnership Boards policies are easily accessible to staff as they are provided with the equipment to work as mobile practitioners.

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN TRAINING**

Staff should understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding children and adults at risk as well as the roles of other professionals in other agencies. This is essential for multi-agency and inter-agency working. Safeguarding children and adult training are mandatory for all staff regardless of their role. Training needs analysis is mapped to the National Intercollegiate Guidance (2019) published by the Royal College of Nursing. Training is delivered via a range of blended learning, with online and face to face training options. S4H has a robust system in place for monitoring and ensuring compliance which is reported to the Executive Board, Commissioners, Quality Safety Assurance Committee and Local Safeguarding Partnership Boards as part of the quarterly and annual reporting system.

## **SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

Solutions 4 Health employs a team which provides S4H staff with support and advice around the issues of safeguarding including safeguarding supervision and training.

- Director of Public Health and Lifestyle Services – Executive Lead for Safeguarding
- Director of Nursing and Safeguarding
- Named Doctor for Safeguarding



- Named Nurses for Safeguarding

S4H's representation at Executive Board level is provided by the Director of Public Health and Lifestyle Services / Executive Lead for Safeguarding and the Director of Nursing and Safeguarding. They are the "Children's Champion" in accordance with the Children's Act 2004. S4H also has a safeguarding link worker scheme which provides a network of advice and support and aids the flow of information to clinicians. Within the Public Health Nursing 0-19 (25) service, the Named Nurses fulfils this role and provides quarterly and ad hoc safeguarding supervision to each member of the team as well as providing training around safeguarding children and adults.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The Executive Board receives quarterly reports around compliance and details of the services use of safeguarding teams within S4H.

The Executive Board approves S4H Safeguarding Action Plans which includes details of what S4H is doing to develop and improve its safeguarding arrangements. As part of this the Safeguarding Team conducts regular audits to ensure that the safeguarding arrangements in place are working. The Safeguarding Team also supports teams within S4H who have safeguarding action plans from other inspections such as Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) by Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted).

S4H is also required to undertake an annual audit of its safeguarding arrangements against the requirements of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. The report is submitted to the Local Safeguarding Adult and Children Partnership Boards, S4H Executive Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Boards who monitor any actions arising from them.