Declaration of Safeguarding Children arrangements in Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust takes its duty of safeguarding children and young people seriously and works hard to ensure that all children and young people are cared for in a safe, secure and caring environment. The organisation strives to improve and maintain good safeguarding children practice across all its sites and services. The Trust fosters collaboration with local multi-agency partners in order to support robust and co-ordinated actions.

To ensure delivery of the highest possible standards of safeguarding a number of arrangements are in place. These include:

1. Employment checks

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust meet statutory requirements in relation Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All staff employed by the Trust undergo a DBS check prior to employment and those working with children and young people undergo an enhanced level of assessment.

A three yearly rolling programme to DBS check existing staff is in place and progressing well. The Trust policy “Recruitment and Selection” includes a section on DBS checking. Safer recruitment practices are included within Recruitment and Selection training.

2. Policies and Procedures

The Trust Child Protection policies, procedures are up to date and reviewed on a regular basis in line with national, policy, legislation and guidance.

Procedures and guidelines comply with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), What to Do If You are Worried a Child is being abused (2015), Information Sharing (2015) and Pan London Child Protection Guidance. Policies and procedures are available to staff via the Trust intranet and are sign posted at all safeguarding training sessions.

3. Identifying children and young people of concern

The Trust has robust processes to identify children and young people of concern and actions required if they Do Not Attend appointments. A “Did Not Attend” policy is in place for all services for assessing the risk to a child or young person when planned interventions do not take place. This includes guidance for staff where a child is ‘unseen’ or where there is restricted access. The Trust has a system in place for flagging children and young people for who there are safeguarding concerns. The Trust is due to adopt the national Child Protection Information System (CPIS) in 2015 to ensure that children subject to a child protection plan including unborn babies and Looked After Children are highlighted when accessing Emergency Department services.

4. Training

There is clear guidance for staff relating to the mandatory safeguarding children training that they should complete, commensurate with their role. The guidance is regularly reviewed to
ensure it remains commensurate with Intercollegiate Guidance (2014). The Trust has a robust training strategy in place with regard to delivering safeguarding children training. Performance against training plan is reviewed quarterly. The content of the training is kept up to date and captures learning from serious case review.

The Trust is confident that the current training plan is sufficient to ensure acceptable compliance of staff eligible for levels 1-4 training.

The Trust Board is due to complete Safeguarding Training in autumn 2015.

5. Professional with Lead Responsibilities

The Trust has named professional who lead on all safeguarding issues. They have clear job descriptions and objective relating to the role. They have dedicated time to fulfil the role and receive relevant support, supervisions and training to undertake their roles’, which includes close contact with other social and health care organisations. The Named Professionals represent the Trust on sub groups for each of the Safeguarding Children Boards in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham.

6. Responsibilities and Accountability – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Trust Lead Named Nurse 1.0 WTE x 1

Named Nurse 1.0 WTE x 1

Named Dr 0.4 WTE x 2

Named Midwives 2.5 WTE

The Director of Nursing and Clinical Quality/Deputy Chief Executive Officer is the Executive lead for safeguarding and sits on the Trust Board.

The Adult and Children & Young People Safeguarding Committee is chaired by a Non-Executive Director.

The Trust Board receives regular reports on safeguarding from the committee and through executive reports. Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust is an active member of Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham Safeguarding Children Boards and sub groups.

7. Reports and Assurance

An annual audit programme is set to provide assurance that safeguarding systems and processes are working effectively.

8. Board Assurance

The Trust Board receives and Annual Report on Safeguarding Children and Young People.

The annual report sets out work undertaken during the year, raises significant issues and sets the work plan for the following year.

August 2015