

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Board of Directors Meeting

**Meeting Date:** 22 February 2017

**Title and Author of Paper:** Safeguarding and Public Protection Annual Report  
Jan Grey Head of Safeguarding and Public Protection

**Executive Lead:** Gary O'Hare, Executive Director of Nursing and Operations

**Paper for Debate, Decision or Information:** Information

**Key Points to Note:**

The Trust Safeguarding and Public Protection annual report covers the period from April 2015 to March 2016.

The report outlines the progress that has been made in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of patients and carers. It highlights areas where the safeguarding and public protection team are continuing to develop and offers an insight into the safeguarding priorities for the organisation.

**Risks Highlighted to Board :**

None

**Does this affect any Board Assurance Framework/Corporate Risks?** No

Please state Yes or No

If Yes please outline

**Equal Opportunities, Legal and Other Implications:** None

**Outcome Required:**

The Board of Directors are asked to note the content of this report.

**Link to Policies and Strategies:**

Care Act 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Children's Act 2004



# Safeguarding and Public Protection Annual Report 2015/2016

Shining a light on the future



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## **Introduction**

We are very pleased to introduce the Trust Safeguarding and Public Protection Annual Report, covering the period from April 2015 to March 2016. This report outlines the effectiveness of arrangements in the trust to protect and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults. It provides an overview of some of the key safeguarding activity that is supported, co-ordinated and scrutinised by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG'S), Local Safeguard Children Boards (LSCB's) and Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (LSAB'S).

The report is presented to trust board by the Executive Director for Nursing and Operations the trust lead for safeguarding and public protection.

### **“Safeguarding is everybody’s business”**

Safeguarding and Public Protection Team (SAPP)

#### **Operational Management Developments**

- In 2015 the SAPP team underwent a Corporate Transformation programme to improve the efficiency and quality of SAPP services to ensure that the future service delivery model supports the overall Trust and clinical areas to achieve their objectives. The changes to the team included the introduction of a SAPP Team Manager, the SAPP Practitioner posts being responsible for all areas of safeguarding and public protection, this was in response to the positive reporting of concerns across all areas of safeguarding and public protection from trust services. The Safeguarding training posts were also reviewed and to improve efficiency and training developments, safeguarding training is now managed by the training department in line with all mandatory training within the organisation.
- In 2015 the SAPP team were able to support two new secondments. The first was for a SAPP Practitioner to be seconded to Gateshead Adult MASH (multi-agency adult safeguarding hub) to work closely with partners agencies, of serial victims of domestic abuse and complex safeguarding cases. The second secondment was within the SAPP team as a Case Review Report Writer for safeguarding Serious Case Reviews and Serious Adult Reviews. These posts will continue throughout 2016.

#### **Key achievements 2014/15**

- The safeguarding and public protection team have maintained a high visibility and have risen to the challenge of providing advice, support and supervision to staff in a timely way despite an increase in demands on the service.
- Excellent links and working relationships with partners is evidenced through Trust representation at LSCB's LSAB's, MAPPA SMB's and associated subgroups.
- The safeguarding and public protection team have contributed to serious case reviews, serious adult reviews, and domestic homicide reviews, embedding learning into practice.

- The team have continued to respond to the challenge of sexual exploitation (SE) and have raised awareness within the trust through training and attendance at Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) both operational and strategic groups, as well as adult strategy meetings.
- Trust systems for staff to share concerns have been strengthened by the implementation of the electronic web based incident process.
- The team has prioritised and delivered high quality training in the trust and has also contributed to the multiagency LSCB training agendas.
- The SAPP team have been working closely with the National Probation Service in providing training and developing internal systems to fulfil our duty to support victim's rights for those patients who has committed specified violent or sexual offences against them.
- The SAPP team in 2015 have developed a process for all 6 local authority areas CSC departments to identify if any children are known to NTW. SAPP Admin then ensure that all clinician's involved with child and family are invited to the CP Conference and are required to provide a report

### **Public Protection /Safeguarding Adults**

- The Adult at Risk Policy and associated training has been revised to incorporate the Care Act 2014. The Trust is fully committed to making safeguarding personal ensuring it is person-led and outcome-focused. Self neglect has been strengthened in training to trust staff with evidence of concerns being raised appropriately. Female Genital Mutilation and how to report concerns has also been added to training for staff.
- The SAPP team has consolidated the information required regarding MAPPA eligible offenders for Northumbria Probation as part of Trust Duty to Co-operate arrangements.
- The team continues to attend MAPPA meetings, facilitates robust referrals thus ensuring the Trust contributes effectively in safeguarding both patients and the wider public in doing so.

### **Domestic Abuse/Safeguarding Children**

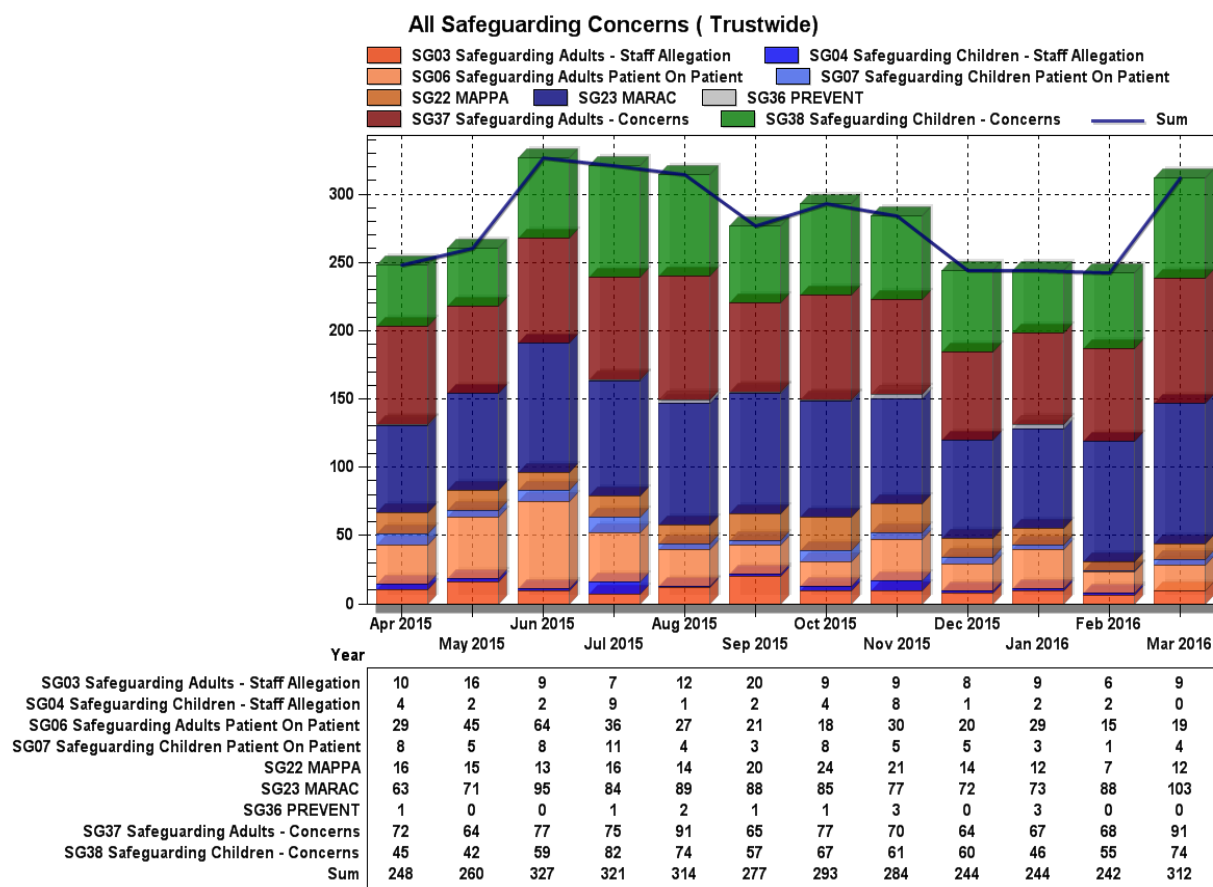
- The SAPP team and CYPS play an integral part in the recently developed locality Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) operational groups. These multi-agency meetings share intelligence, timely information and concerns regarding young people that are at risk of/are being sexually exploited putting safety plans in place to safeguard.
- Over the last 3 months the trust have assisted in the review of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) meetings due to the significant

increase year on year of cases being discussed. Initial changes of a reduction of paperwork being requested by MARAC Coordinator and all agencies screening own referrals prior to submission has seen a marked decrease in cases being discussed that require a multi-agency meeting to safeguard. A pilot of a daily MARAC is to commence in one Local Authority in the autumn.

## Statistical Safeguarding and Public Protection

The SAPP team uses data generated from web based incident forms used across the organisation. The incident forms track appropriate actions. They categorise the cause of concern, threshold of concern, where the concern was raised and the outcome.

This information is collected into quarterly dashboards, scrutinised and is used to identify “hotspots” target training and provide supervision by the SAPP team. The safeguarding performance dashboards are shared with the Trust Quality and Performance Committee as well as SAFE groups.



Over the last 12 months there were 3366 Safeguarding and Public Protection concerns reported into the SAPP team. As with previous years this is a substantial increase of 2768 in 2014/2015.

From the analysis, all “allegations against staff” are taken seriously, initial fact find taken place and referrals to the Local Authority are made where necessary. If

required internal investigations are undertaken, with feedback provided to the Local Authority of the outcome of any investigation.

The safeguarding incidents “patient on patient “ for both children and adult are those concerns on wards where in the main psychological or physical abuse occurs between patients requiring safety plans to be put in place to safeguard. The Local Authority safeguarding teams are contacted if necessary.

MAPPA activity are the cases that trust staff have referred into the MAPPA process and /or the cases discussed in MAPPA meetings where the trust are involved with the service user

From the analysis safeguarding and public protection activity MARAC activity has continued to rise over the past 12 months, due to identification and referral by agencies in the MARAC process and therefore the increase of cases discussed. A review of the MARAC process is taking place in 2016/17.

PREVENT referrals by trust staff in comparison to other safeguarding and public protection activity is low however the trust are the highest health referring agency and are seen as a good reporters by Northumbria Police

It is clear that services are continuing to routinely contact the SAPP team with low level of concerns, for adults over the last 12 months there were 556 concerns that required a single agency safety plan to safeguard. This early identification provides assurance that services are putting safety planning measures in place to prevent wherever possible significant harm occurring. When the threshold for significant harm/multi agency safety planning is required services across the trust refer accordingly, referrals to the Local Authority Safeguarding teams or Police involvement that met the threshold for significant harm or risk of, there was 335. The concerns that are raised are in connection to Service Users, family members and the wider public.

For safeguarding children concerns there were 402 low level concerns that required single agency safety plans and 320 concerns raised that met the threshold for actual/potential significant harm where a referral was made to Children’s Social Care and/or Police.

## **Training**

Our aim is to ensure that staff receive stimulating, high quality training which meets their learning needs and reflects current issues in safeguarding and public protection. The trust recognise the importance of staff training in child sexual exploitation in ensuring that they are aware of the challenges that children and their families may face. One example of this has been where extensive training in the identification of some of the potential indicators of sexual exploitation has been provided to CYPS staff as well as within safeguarding induction training material across the organisation for all staff



## **Policies**

All four Safeguarding and Public Protection policies have been revised in line with Local and National changes to legislation and procedures including;

The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child, young person' or adults safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention.

Training strategy for trust staff who work with children and adults or in services affecting their safety and welfare.

The expectations of Trust Staff within Child Protection Conferences and associated Plans ensuring robust risk management systems are in place to safeguard, promoting multi agency working as appropriate and communicating significant risks to all relevant bodies where necessary.

## **Our Commitment to Partnership Working**

Over the last 12 months the safeguarding and public protection team and named Medical and Nursing Directors have played an integral part in relation to partnership working. This has been achieved by assisting in Ofsted and peer inspections, representation on Local Safeguarding Boards and sub-groups, as well as attendance at the Police and Probation statutory meetings for Public Protection. The Team continually work with partner agencies on a day to day basis to ensure robust safety plans and risk management are in place to safeguarding and public protection.

## **Audits**

### **Multi Agency Audits for Safeguarding**

The safeguarding team have completed several Section 11 and Quality Assurance Framework audits in respect of the trust arrangements for safeguarding. The Head of SAPP and SAPP Team Manager have attended challenge events within LSCB's and LSAB's. This promoted constructive challenge to trust safeguarding arrangements and provided assurance that the trust is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities

### **Newcastle SCB CSE Multi agency audits**

The SAPP team have participated in the multi-agency themed practice audits on child sexual exploitation during 2015/16, which required a range of different sources of information and methodology. A full day event has taken place with partner agencies regarding findings. Assurance was evident that CSE is recognised and responded to appropriately.

### **Northumberland SCB Case File Audit**

The SAPP team have assisted in the multi- agency annual case file audit for safeguarding children. Assurance was evident that trust staff recorded safeguarding

concerns and referred appropriately, with safety plans put in place.

### SAPP team audits

- Safeguarding Process

The Safeguarding Process audit was identified by the SAPP team with a view to ascertaining performance against the safeguarding process for those service users whom are being safeguarded and identifying areas for improvement in practice.

The audit concluded there was full compliance and assurance that concerns raised by clinicians to the SAPP team were appropriate. Robust information was sought to safeguard with appropriate referrals made to other agencies. Timely referrals were completed, accepted and investigated or further referrals made by Children and Adult Social care services for any interventions required to safeguard.

- Triage System

In December 2015 the revised SAPP team Triage system became operational for all services across the trust in light of a significant demand to the previous Duty system.

The main objective of the audit was to provide assurance there are robust arrangements in place to provide timely first line advice and support for all three groups within the trust.

The audit concluded that there is evidence that trust staff receive timely and appropriate response for first hand advice when concerns are raised with the SAPP team. Those cases that require more in depth work to safeguard were referred onto the relevant SAPP practitioner to safeguard. All 3 trust groups contact the SAPP team regularly.

### Case Reviews

All reviews are reported to the Trust Board on a bi-monthly basis and lessons learnt are cascaded throughout the organisation and/or built into future training. Bespoke training has also been provided for those service areas involved to ensure all staff have received same

### Serious Case Reviews (SCR)/other case reviews

- Children

4 Serious Case Reviews were commissioned over the last 12 months, two cases of sexual abuse of teenagers within the community and two cases of neglect within the home.

- Adults

Over the last twelve months there was 2 Serious Adult Reviews. One case of domestic abuse and one case of alleged hate crime.

- Domestic Homicide Reviews

Over the last twelve months there have been 5 Domestic Homicide Reviews. None of the 5 cases had been known to the multi-agency risk panel meeting MARAC. Lessons from the DHR's are shared with services, recommendations are actioned and learning provided within trust training.

### **Safeguarding Annual Work Plan 2014/15**

All of the actions in relation to the 15/16 Annual Work plan have been achieved.

### **Developments for the forthcoming year**

To ensure that the SAPP Practitioners have the knowledge, skills and expertise to provide advice, support and supervision across all areas of safeguarding and public protection in respect of new roles and responsibilities.

To assist in the review of the LSCB's with health colleagues, police and local government to determine multi-agency arrangements for protecting and safeguarding children post Wood report.

To play an integral part in the review of domestic abuse multi agency arrangements.

To develop a "storyboard" one page briefing document for sharing lessons learned across the organisation from all safeguarding and public protection case reviews.

To build on work already in place to achieve trust understanding of Children Social Care and Adult Social Care thresholds, improving the quality of referral, managing demand and improving leadership of Early Help interventions across the 6 locality areas in line with developments within the LA "front door" arrangements that are taking place.

### **Conclusion**

This annual Report provides the Trust Board, partners and stakeholders with an overview and assurance of the activity for Safeguarding and Public Protection during the periods 2015/2016. We must continue to work together to strengthen our resolve to make safeguarding effective. The SAPP team can identify and recognise staffs commitment to improve the life chances of all who fall under the safeguarding umbrella.

Jan Grey  
Head of Safeguarding and Public Protection  
2016