

GP Care Group

Safeguarding Children and Adults At Risk Strategy

2025/26



Safeguarding Every Age, Every Stage

About this strategy

This safeguarding strategy outlines how the GP Care Group will fulfil its safeguarding duties in 2025/26.

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Introduction

Everyone has the right to be safe from abuse and protected from harm. The care group is committed to safeguard children and adults who are at risk of harm, and this is at the heart of everything we do.

We comply with safeguarding requirements outlined in the Care act 2014, Working together 2023, the Children Act 2004, Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework 2022 and Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulations.

Safeguarding is a priority for everyone, and leaders embed a culture of openness and working together. We are committed to meet with CQC regulation 13, to safeguard service users from suffering any form of abuse or improper treatment while receiving care and treatment.

Safeguarding in the GP Care Group

Safe recruitment processes ensure appropriately qualified and suitable staff are selected and employed to deliver excellent care for the residents in Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

All staff and volunteers are required to undertake mandatory and statutory safeguarding training as detailed in the intercollegiate document for adults and children to ensure they have the skills to recognise and act on safeguarding concerns.

The safeguarding team provides specialist advice for children and adults across all services and support staff to recognise and report signs of abuse and work effectively with safeguarding partnerships to ensure a multi-agency approach.

Our safeguarding service is comprised of specialist nurses, named nurse for adults and children, named doctor, administration support and a head of safeguarding.

The service works closely with the quality, safety and governance team to support learning from incidents and practice development. There are close links with our designated professionals in North East London ICB who provide safeguarding supervision and professional support.

Safeguarding is embedded at every level in the Care Group with effective governance processes evident. Commissioners and regulators are assured that safeguarding arrangements are in place and working.

Our safeguarding commitment

We expect all our staff to put the needs of children and adults first when determining what action to take, while promoting the voice of the child and principles of making safeguarding personal.

In addition, staff:

- Can articulate their personal responsibilities for safeguarding and demonstrate competence.
- Are alert to potential indicators of abuse and take appropriate action.
- Recognise that experiencing abuse and neglect in childhood can impact health outcomes and life expectancy.
- Realise that trauma can affect individuals, groups and communities and understand trauma-informed approaches.
- Are alert to the risks abusers may pose to children, adults and any staff involved.
- Act with openness to ensure that they are confident in raising concerns about safeguarding and feel supported to do so.

We are committed to supporting staff to raise appropriate safeguarding concerns within the principle of no delay and to support safeguarding enquiries.

We ensure all our staff are aware of their responsibilities and can identify and access support, guidance and advice through training, policies, procedures, standards and safeguarding supervision.

Goals and criteria for success

To help deliver effective safeguarding practice, the Care Group has a detailed workplan with outcomes for measurement based on these areas.

People

We will provide effective safeguarding advice and guidance to our staff, volunteers and carers to enable them to support children and adults with safeguarding concerns.

We will promote a supportive culture that enables safeguarding issues to be raised and addressed, resulting in actions to protect. The voice of the child and views of the adult will be considered and central to our decision making.

We will recognise and respect diversity to meet the needs of marginalised communities and seldom heard groups to reduce inequalities within our communities.

We will recognise and support staff, volunteers or carers who find themselves experiencing abuse first hand and will provide appropriate proactive support. We will recognise the impact of safeguarding practice on staff and provide adequate support to prevent vicarious trauma.

Criteria for success

- Staff know who is in the safeguarding team are and how to contact them.
- The organisation will know who the named nurse, doctors and safeguarding nurses are and contact details are readily available for them, and external agencies.
- All staff will have access to safeguarding supervision and reflective practice opportunities to support complex cases.
- 95% of staff are compliant with their safeguarding and diversity training.
- Allegations against staff involving child abuse or adult abuse / neglect are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly and reported to local authority designated officer (LADO) or person in a position of trust (pipot) and regulatory bodies as required.
- Safeguarding policies will be reviewed to ensure they reflect trauma-informed principles. These will be up-to-date and readily available on the intranet and policy stat.
- Clear and updated guidelines will be in place for managing concerns about staff conduct and reporting allegations of abuse.

Learning

We will continue to promote a culture of continuous safeguarding improvements and learning.

Emerging safeguarding themes such as neglect, child sexual abuse, criminal exploitation and online abuse will be promoted and included in learning opportunities.

Lessons learned from practice reviews undertaken by the adult and children safeguarding partnerships in Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest will be effectively disseminated and will shape the training support and guidance we provide for staff.

Criteria for success

- Staff will have timely safeguarding updates to have confidence to manage emerging safeguarding themes.
- Audit and quality assurance measures will provide assurance that learning is impacting practice
- Children their families and adults will be involved in how we design and plan safeguarding interventions and services.
- A member of the safeguarding team will be allocated to attend staff learning events which will include a space for discussions around safeguarding concerns.
- The safeguarding team will promote, in collaboration with the integrated care board (ICB) and local authority a multi-agency training plan.

Partnerships

We will build on internal and external partnerships to strengthen our safeguarding practice.

As core members of the children safeguarding partnerships and adult safeguarding boards, we will support with delivering board priorities and contribute to safeguarding reviews including domestic homicide reviews.

Criteria for success

- We will actively seek feedback from partners and commissioners.
- An annual staff survey will be conducted to assess the confidence in reporting safeguarding concerns and identify barriers to reporting.

Governance for the strategy

To help drive and measure the success of this safeguarding strategy a safeguarding workplan has been developed. This will be monitored by the head of safeguarding for adults and children and progress reports will be presented at the safeguarding committee and quality assurance group.

Key legal frameworks for safeguarding

Safeguarding adults

- The Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Deprivations of Liberty Safeguards 2007
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Modern Slavery Act 2015

Safeguarding children

- Working Together 2023
- Children Act 2004