

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's Annual Safeguarding Report 2020/2021

LPT SAFEGUARDING



Think Child, Think Adult,
Think Safeguarding

Welcome

As the Executive Lead for Safeguarding, I am delighted to introduce Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's Annual Safeguarding Report.

This report provides an opportunity for the safeguarding team and me to reflect and share the achievements of our specialist team, the mental capacity link workers, our staff and volunteers as it relates to safeguarding over the past 12 months. It also allows me to share the new and dynamic work plan for 2021-23. This plan is designed to transform how Trust staff are supported to ensure that the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are free from abuse and that their human rights are protected and upheld.



The past year has again been a challenging time for all because of the worldwide pandemic. Within the context of lockdowns, national vaccination programmes and new variants of COVID-19 the Trust has continued to deliver effective care and treatment across all its services to the people of Leicestershire. This includes the ongoing identification and assessment of safeguarding adults, children and domestic abuse. Trust staff have continued to work effectively to ensure that people accessing our services are protected from abuse and avoidable harm, as well as recognising issues relating to mental capacity and competency.

The Trust's Board of Directors remain committed to providing time and resources to safeguarding, to ensure that people accessing our services and their families and carers are safe and protected from abuse. The Trust operates a 'whole family' approach to safeguarding'.

The Safeguarding Team and I are working hard to ensure that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and 2019 Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act's Liberty Protection Safeguards are robustly implemented and embedded across the Trust to protect and uphold patient's human rights.

This report demonstrates the Trust's learning from statutory multi-agency safeguarding reviews and highlights our commitment to learn and improve in all areas of safeguarding, public protection and mental capacity so that year on year our communities are safer and healthier.

I would like to thank our frontline staff, the mental capacity link workers and safeguarding team for their ongoing commitment to providing protection, guidance and support to people whose circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse, neglect or radicalisation.

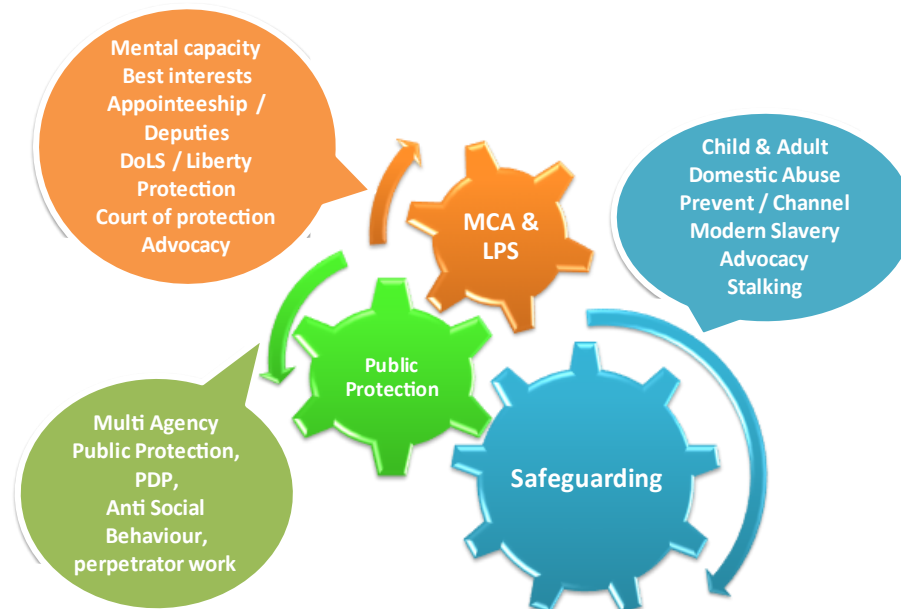
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Scott'.

Dr Anne Scott

Executive Director of Nursing / AHPs and Quality

Trust Safeguarding

The Trust's safeguarding team lead on the whole family approach including safeguarding, public protection and mental capacity activity across the domains of domestic abuse, child and adult safeguarding, Prevent (radicalisation), capacity, deprivation and competency and multi-agency public protection.



The safeguarding team proactively engages in multi-agency working to enhance relationships, develop strategies and strengthen processes to ensure that the people who receive Trust services and the communities which the Trust serves are safeguarded from abuse and that early help and intervention are available to all.

The Safeguarding Team, Safeguarding and Legislative Committees ensure that safeguarding is embedded within all Trust policies, procedures and services and that all staff have the required skills and knowledge to deliver effective safeguarding in their everyday practice. The team provides frontline staff with training, supervision, advice and support in complex and high risk safeguarding or challenging human rights situations. They also act as a point of escalation both internally and with external agencies in situations that require resolution and intervention to improve outcomes for patients and their families. The team also oversees the development, additional training and specialist supervision to Mental Capacity Link Workers who work to embed practice within frontline services.

The Trust's Safeguarding and Legislative Committees report to the Board of Directors' Quality Assurance Committee on safeguarding, public protection and mental capacity to provide assurance or to escalate issues. The Board of Directors has an Executive Lead for safeguarding and a Non-Executive Director who champions safeguarding and provides oversight and challenge.

Trust Achievements (April 2020 - March 2021)

- ❖ Improved knowledge and multi-agency Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) practice across frontline services
- ❖ Started a journey towards integration of adult and child safeguarding practice within the safeguarding team
- ❖ Commenced closer working within frontline services to demonstrate effective safeguarding, public protection and mental capacity practice
- ❖ Developed clinical services to complete the safeguarding adult Section 42 enquiries within both inpatient and community settings
- ❖ Attended the Trust's patient safety meetings to ensure that safeguarding is embedded and considered in all service reviews
- ❖ Legislative and Safeguarding Committees elevated to level 2 committees enabling closer reporting to Trust Board enhancing governance and enabling focussed discussion.
- ❖ The Trust led a cross agency workshop with strategic leaders on collaborative working for people who have a learning disability and require safeguarding.
- ❖ The development of safeguarding supervisors for staff who work with children.

Reviews and Lessons Learned

During 2020-21 the Trust were engaged in several statutory multi-agency safeguarding reviews which were published across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Serious Case Reviews (from 2020 child safeguarding practice reviews) and Domestic Homicide Reviews are designed to establish what lessons can be learned regarding the way in which professionals and organisations worked individually and together to safeguard and protect people.

The published statutory safeguarding reviews highlighted positive practice and learning from across the Trust's diverse range of clinical services. The learning focussed on multi-agency information sharing, communication between professionals from different agencies, the need for earlier identification of abuse by frontline staff, greater professional curiosity and a more rapid and robust response to disclosures and signs of abuse.

The Trust also completes serious incident investigations because learning from incidents in healthcare is essential to improved outcomes for patients. The Trust ensures that all serious incidents consider safeguarding issues within them and that the safeguarding team are engaged in supporting clinical services to develop meaningful and effective plans to improve safeguarding practice and therefore to increase patient's safety.

Safeguarding the future by learning from the past

The Trust's vision is to "create high quality, compassionate care and wellbeing for all". The challenge is how we ensure that this is achieved from a safeguarding perspective. How do we ensure that every sign of abuse is explored, that each and every disclosure is dealt with effectively, proportionately and with kindness? So that when someone is at risk from abuse, self-neglect or radicalisation they are truly listened to, empowered, protected and that support is personalised to their needs. The answer is to ensure that safeguarding principles and human rights are woven through every part of the organisation like a golden thread. As a Trust we strive to be better, we want our staff and volunteers to embody the principles of safeguarding in all that they do and to provide personalised care to people whose futures can feel bleak whilst inspiring confidence for their futures.

Safeguarding principles and people's rights should be so embedded in staff, volunteers and student's consciousness so that no matter what they are doing or where they are, they consider the guiding principles of empowerment, personalisation, human rights, protection and accountability. So that whether a patient discloses they are scared to go home to one of our reception staff; an occupational therapist wonders if the daughter of an emotionally distressed father is being supported; or a manager on their way home from work sees a person in distress; they consider the safety and welfare of that person and use their knowledge, care and compassion to walk alongside and support that person to share their fear, to identify vulnerability and to provide aid to them with personalised safety planning and recovery.

The challenge for the Trust in 2021 - 2022 is to ensure that safeguarding practice is guided by 'thoughtfulness', thus guaranteeing that;

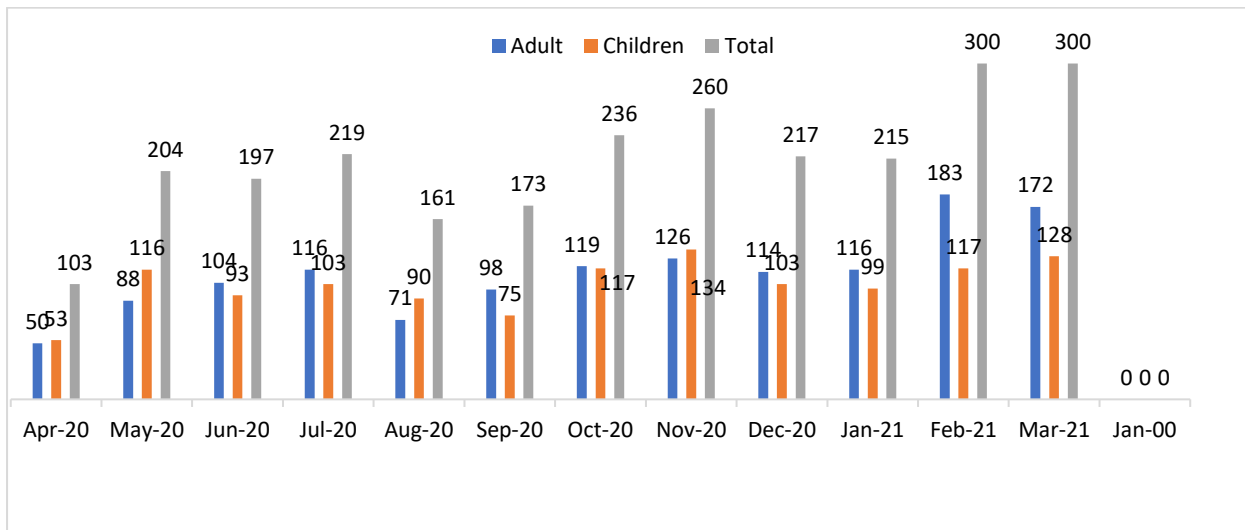
- ❖ there is a culture that understands and promotes safeguarding practice, guided by thoughtfulness across every ward, within every community team and every individual that works for, or with us
- ❖ every suspicion of abuse is reported and openly considered and explored
- ❖ all abuse is identified, proportionately acted upon and people are included and protected.

Perhaps the most important lesson for our society comes from the decades of abuse that was ignored and went unheard, even when children and adults were brave enough to speak out [IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) .

It is time to change and to stand up and stop abuse. No longer should people feel ashamed, unable to speak up or unheard. The negative impact upon people's psychological and mental health when they can no longer carry the secret, distress and the shame of past abuse is well known. As an NHS Trust we receive many disclosures of past and current abuse. We are fortunate to work alongside partner agencies who will support our staff and our patients to share their experiences and secrets, and to stop abuse in its tracks.

The year ahead: April 2021 – March 2022

With an ever-increasing demand upon frontline staff to safeguard and protect patients and their families, the Trust has identified a need for increased accessibility to advice and guidance for frontline staff – see safeguarding duty line requests for advice April 2020 to March 2021 below;



Our Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Team's objectives include:

- ❖ Designing and implementing improved and timely access for frontline staff to specialist advice, supervision and escalation by creating a “safeguarding advice hub”
- ❖ Devising an intensive work programme for 2021 – 2023 to transform safeguarding, public protection and mental capacity practice, systems, training and processes across the Trust
- ❖ To focus on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and ensure that victims and survivors of abuse are identified, risk assessed and their safety is planned according to their needs and wishes
- ❖ To improve child safeguarding practice by streamlining Trust responses and freeing up frontline services to support children and their families, with particular focus on identifying early help strategies for parents who experience mental ill health, child protection conferences and court reports
- ❖ To develop and improve multi-agency adult safeguarding by responding to allegations of abuse in a timely manner, effectively sharing information and developing adult safeguarding plans with partner agencies. This will focus particularly on strategy discussions, making safeguarding personal, pressure ulcer care, cultural awareness and hate crime
- ❖ Implementing the Liberty Protection Safeguards so that people's rights are protected and deprivation of liberties are reduced.

“Safeguarding is everyone's business”