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To all Independent Contractors

Dear Colleague,

NHS Plymouth is committed to producing an annual safeguarding children newsletter for all independent contractors (Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians) who they commission. The aim of the newsletter is to provide an update on general issues related to safeguarding children, with any specific highlights for certain providers, e.g. Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians. This newsletter will particularly cover your responsibilities in relation to:

- New terms in safeguarding children
- Update on safeguarding children
- Safeguarding children training
- Independent safeguarding authority (ISA) registration
- Policies and standards in relation to safeguarding children

1. **New Terms in Safeguarding Children**

Child Protection Register is now called '**Child Protection Plan**'
Social Services is now called **Social Care**
Child Protection is included in the broader term **Safeguarding Children**

2. **Update on Safeguarding Children**

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 is a significant document that translates the legislative framework of the Children Act 1989 and 2004. In this document there is clear guidance about staffs' roles and responsibilities when working with children, young people and parents. The term 'working with' is a broad interpretation and is further clarified into specific statutory responsibilities for certain professionals which

include Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians. These responsibilities include:

- Safe recruitment and enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks for all staff who work with children.
- All staff who work with children should have regular safeguarding children training.
- Staff know how to make a referral when they have concerns about a child or someone's parenting ability gives rise to significant concern.
- Staff have access to professional support in relation to safeguarding children.
- Staff are aware of policies and procedures that relate to safeguarding children.

The term safeguarding is a broader term than child protection and it aims to focus attention on early interventions to reduce the number of children who escalate in to full child protection procedures.

From April 2009 the Child Protection Register was replaced by the term 'Child Protection Plan'. If you have concerns about a child and you want to check if there is any Children's Social Care involvement you can phone:

Advice and Assessment **01752 308600** (Monday to Friday 9.00 – 5.00) and Out of Hours on **01752 346982**.

A full list of contact details for NHS Plymouth Safeguarding Children Team can be found in Appendix 1.

Safeguarding children has been the focus of significant attention following the publicity surrounding the death of Baby Peter in Haringey. For Health Staff this focus has included an in-depth* 'Review of Arrangements in the NHS for Safeguarding Children' (links to the full report below) which highlighted variable standards across England with particular focus on training and leadership for independent contractors. This report identified on average only **35-43% of independent practitioners** (GPs, Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians) **had received appropriate training to safeguard children**. It is the expectation of the Care Quality Commission and most professional bodies that staff access safeguarding children training every three years (Inter Collegiate Document 2006 – link below).

The government produces a biennial review of all serious case reviews. A serious case review is a statutory review of multi-agency records and practice and is undertaken when a child has died or suffered significant harm and abuse or that neglect have contributed to the death or injury. These reports have highlighted that parental issues can severely impact on child's safety and one aspect of the review highlighted that if a parent has drug and alcohol problems, mental health problems and there is domestic violence in the family

* http://www.cqc.org.uk/_db/_documents/Safeguarding_Children_200907153039.pdf

these combined factors greatly increases the risks to the children. This review highlighted the important role that all services who work with parents play in protecting children by identifying risks, sharing concerns and making appropriate referrals.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have recently produced guidance on 'When to suspect child maltreatment' (Nice clinical guideline CG89 - July 2009). There is a link to this document in the reference list.

3. Safeguarding Children Training

The NHS presently recognises that staff who have contact with children and/or parents must have training to:

- Recognise abuse
- Know where to get advice
- Follow safeguarding policies and procedures
- Know how to make a referral

Staff can access safeguarding children training form a range of sources:

- E-learning packages (details below – maximum time to complete is one hour)
- Attend multi-agency training provided by your local Safeguarding Children Board (details below, there may be charges for this training)
- Designated professionals for safeguarding children are happy to attend large organised events to deliver training session (approximately two hours)
- Privately organised training which meets the requirement of Level 2 training in the Inter Collegiate Document (link below)

Independent contractors should inform the PCT when they have completed their training, providing appropriate evidence, e.g. certificate, attendance list, reflection on the training etc.

There is an expectation that all staff will attend safeguarding training or inform the PCT of the date and content of their last safeguarding training in April 2010.

4. Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registration

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) was a recommendation of the Bichard Inquiry which reviewed the murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells who died at the hands of Ian Huntley in Soham.

The aim of the ISA is to have a live connection to inform employers if an employee has committed an offence that relates to vulnerable adults or

children. The term 'vulnerable adults' is a broad term and embraces any patient accessing health services (GPs, Dentists etc).

In summary the registration process will compulsorily start in November 2010. From **November 2010**, all new employees and volunteers who want to work with children and vulnerable adults **must be** ISA registered before they can be legally employed. Obtaining ISA registration is the employee's responsibility. It is not a difficult or time-consuming process and there is a one-off cost of £64 (£28 ISA/£36 CRB administration costs). An employer who does not check a new employee's registration could be liable to a £5000 fine and a criminal conviction.

Between 2010 and 2015 there is a rolling programme to ensure all staff who are currently employed will be ISA registered. Further guidance on this is being released on a regular basis and all employers should understand their developing needs in relation to this statutory registration.

I have provided some links to useful websites related to ISA below.

5. Policies and Standards in Relation to Safeguarding Children

One of the recommendations from the Lord Laming Inquiry 2003, and reinforced by his progress report on 'The Protection of Children in England' 2009, was that all staff who work with children, young people and parents must know about their own, local and national policies and procedures relating to safeguarding children.

The links below will inform you about the local and national policies and procedures. We have also provided some useful links from your professional organisations. As an independent contractor you will need to consider how you and your practice meet your statutory obligations to safeguard children.

The South West has electronic Child Protection Procedures which are constantly review and updated to reflect the needs to all professionals to safeguarding and protect children. You can access these procedures via www.swcpp.org.uk. If you do not have access to the webs then you can request a hard copy of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. Copies of this can be obtained from DfES Publications, PO Box 5050, Sherwood Park, Annesley, Nottingham NG15 0DJ, Tel: 0845 6022260.

NHS Plymouth is committed to provide you with an annual update on issues related to safeguarding children.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

The team is available Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm

Sue Baldwin Designated Nurse	Office Mobile E-mail	01752 435059 07826892445 susan.baldwin@plymouth.nhs.uk
Carolyn Adcock Designated Doctor	via	01752 435064 Carolyn.adcock@plymouth.nhs
Michelle Smith Named Nurse	Office Mobile E-mail	01752 435063 07766905598 michelle.smith@plymouth.nhs.uk
Sara Walker Named Doctor		01752 435064 Sara.walker@plymouth.nhs.uk
Di Dymond Designated Nurse Children in Care	Office Mobile E-mail	01752 435057 07899914936 Diana.dymond@plymouth.nhs.uk
Liz Greatrex Team Office Manager	Office E-mail	01752 435064 liz.greatrex@plymouth.nhs.uk

Reference and links

'A review of arrangements in the NHS for safeguarding children' July 2009
http://www.cgc.org.uk/db/documents/Safeguarding_Children_200907153039.pdf

NICE Guidelines CG89 – July 09 'When to suspect child maltreatment'
<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/CG89NICEGuidance.pdf>

Training

A distance learning pack is available from CPPE on safeguarding children and is available resource for each pharmacy. <http://www.cppe.ac.uk/>

Intercollegiate Document 2006 – 'Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff'
www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id_Resource=1535

Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board Training (each area has it's own local Safeguarding Children Board which can be accessed by the links on the [sscpp.org.uk](http://www.sscpp.org.uk) procedures)
<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/localsafeguardingchildrenboard/pscbsafeguardinglearninganddevelopment/pscbtraining.htm>

A free e-learning resource for GPs and Dentists. Front line practitioners should do levels 1 & 2 (each takes approximately 30 minutes)
<http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/safeguarding/>

A free e-learning package sponsored by the Strategic Health Authority. The safeguarding package has been devised by the NSPCC.
<http://www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk/>

To arrange large groups of training with the Designated Professionals for Safeguarding Children contact: 01752 435064

ISA Web Links

<http://www.isa.gov.org/toolkit/> - leaflet and posters relating to ISA registration

http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/faqs/vetting_and_barring_scheme.aspx - frequently asked questions related to ISA Registration

Policies and Procedures

<http://www.swcpp.org.uk/index.htm> - South West Child Protection Procedures

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/localsafeguardingchildrenboard.htm>

Link to Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) – useful numbers in Social Care

<http://www.plymouthpct.nhs.uk/CorporateInformation/policiesprocedures/Documents/Clinical%20Guidance/Safeguarding%20Children%20Prov%20Svcs%20v1.1.pdf>

NHS Plymouth Safeguarding Children NHS Provider Services Policy Version No. 1.1

<http://www.cpdtd.org.uk/> - Child Protection and the Dental Team

<http://www.rpsgb.org.uk/> - Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

http://www.college-optometrists.org/index.aspx/pcms/site.publication.Ethics_Guidelines.Ethics_Guidelines_home/

The College of Optometrists – Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct (inc. Safeguarding Children)