# SAFEGUARDING

The standards that the Supplier must meet in relation to safeguarding children and adults and caring for patients with challenging behaviour are set out below*.*

All Suppliers shall ensure that they to meet the minimum standards required by legislation and national guidance in relation to safeguarding adults and children.

1. **Policy and Procedures**

The Supplier will ensure that it has up to date organisational safeguarding adult and children’s policies and procedures.

Supplier’s policies, where appropriate, will include a process for the management of differences of opinion between agencies and between health professionals (escalation policy);

1. **Governance**

The Supplier will identify a board level executive director with lead responsibility for safeguarding (adults and children).

The Supplier will have an identified named Safeguarding lead and will ensure these safeguarding professionals have sufficient capacity to carry out their duties as required in statutory guidance. Supplier will take lead responsibility for promoting good professional practice and providing advice and expertise in safeguarding. They should support the Authority in their clinical governance role by ensuring that safeguarding audits are undertaken, and they will conduct the Individual Management Review in any Serious Case Review process.

The Supplier will cooperate with any request from Safeguarding Boards to contribute to multi-agency audits, evaluations, investigations and Serious Case Reviews, including where required, the production of an Individual Management Report.

The Supplier will review the effectiveness of its organisational safeguarding arrangements at least annually and provide assurance through an annual safeguarding report.

The Supplier will consider the organisational implications of any Serious Case Review(s) and will devise and action plan to ensure that any learning is implemented across the organisation.

1. **Multiagency Working and Responding to Concerns**

The Supplier will ensure that any allegation, complaint or concern about abuse from any source is managed effectively and referred according to the local multiagency safeguarding procedures.

The Supplier will ensure that all allegations against members of staff (including staff on fixed-term contracts, temporary staff, locums, agency staff, volunteers, students and trainees) are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) according to local multiagency safeguarding procedures.

1. **Recruitment and Employment Practice**

The Supplier must ensure safe recruitment policies and practices which meet the NHS Employment Check Standards, including enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks for all eligible staff. This includes staff on fixed-term contracts, temporary staff, locums, agency staff, volunteers, students and trainees.

The Supplier will ensure that Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks are repeated for eligible staff in line with national guidance / requirements.

The Supplier must ensure that their employment practices meet the requirements of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and that referrals are made to the ISA, where indicated, for their consideration in relation to inclusion on the barred list.

The Supplier must ensure all contracts of employment (including volunteers, agency staff and contractors) include an explicit responsibility for safeguarding.

1. **Training**

The Supplier will ensure that all staff undertake safeguarding training appropriate to their role and level of responsibility.

1. **Supervision**

The Supplier will develop and implement a policy to ensure that all staff who work predominantly with children, young people and adults who are parents will have access to safeguarding children supervision from a suitably qualified supervisor.

1. **Performance and Monitoring of Providers**

The Supplier will provide an annual safeguarding report to the commissioning boards summarising trends, unresolved risks, data from the Safeguarding Dashboard and safeguarding activity from commissioned services.

1. **Sharing Information**

All Supplier of services commissioned by The Authority are required to share information with other agencies, in a safe and timely manner, where this is necessary for the purposes of safeguarding children and young people in accordance with the law and local multiagency procedures. This may include personal and sensitive information about:

• The child or young person(s) at risk of or experiencing abuse;

• Family members;

• Staff; and,

• Members of the public.

All Supplier are also required to share anonymised and aggregated data where requested, for the purposes of monitoring and developing safeguarding practice.

1. **Management of Safeguarding Children Related Serious Incidents (SIs)**

All Serious Incidents involving children must be reported in accordance with NHS Commissioning Serious Incident Framework March 2013.

In cases where there is a safeguarding children concern, the SI will also be reported by the Provider to the SSCB via the Designated Professional Team for Safeguarding Children.

1. **Allegations Against Staff**

All organisations must adhere to legislation and statutory guidance in managing allegations against staff which indicate they may pose a risk to children.

All Supplier must have in place policies that outline the management of allegations against people who work with children and young people or who are in a position of Authority and visitor access policy. These policies must include issues of concern raised about celebrity and VIP visitors to the organisation.

1. **Responding to Concerns About Harm**

All practitioners should be familiar with both the Local Safeguarding Children Board’s and their own organisation’s policies and protocols for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.

All staff should be aware of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline ‘When to Suspect Child Maltreatment’ (July 2009) which outlines a range alerting features that may indicate child maltreatment and should use this to inform their decision making.

1. **Safeguarding Adults**

Supplier(s) must work within the Commission for Social Care Inspection Safeguarding Adults' procedures and guidelines (2007). The aim is to ensure that all responsible agencies and individuals work together to prevent abuse and safeguard adults where possible, and where preventative measures fail, to deal sensitively and effectively with incidents of abuse.

To comply with these requirements, the Provider(s) must have:

* Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Vulnerable Adults
* A clear statement of the service’s responsibilities towards Vulnerable Adults available for all staff
* A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Vulnerable Adults
* Service development that considers the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed by the views of service users, families, and carers
* Effective interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of Vulnerable Adults; and
* Arrangements for appropriate and proportional information sharing in response to safeguarding concerns.