

Safeguarding Statement

Richard House Children's Hospice is committed to ensuring that safeguarding underpins all that we do. The safety and welfare of our service users¹ is our priority.

The responsibilities for safeguarding are identified by these legislative documents and publications; The Children Act (1989), Every Child Matters Green Paper (2003), The No Secrets Review (2009), Adult Safeguarding (2018), Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), The Children Act (2004) as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Our safeguarding procedures and practices mean that we provide a safe, compassionate, and secure place for service users who engage with the services we commission.

We embrace the Essential Standards of Quality and Safety (2010) and the Sector Specific Guidance: Hospices for Children and Young People (2018) from the Care Quality Commission and in doing so, we work in partnership with local authorities to ensure that those who visit us, or are admitted in our care, are protected from harm.

We ensure commitment to our safeguarding responsibility by undertaking a range of measures:

- We comply with safe recruitment and ensure that statutory requirements on Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks are undertaken for all staff and volunteers.
- Safeguarding policies and processes are robust and up-to-date to ensure that accurate records with regard to actions and decisions are prompt.
- Safeguarding training and updates are in place with systems to monitor compliance so that staff are trained and competent in safeguarding responsibility.
- Identified safeguarding practitioners² take strategic lead and are fully trained to provide advice and expertise to staff and volunteers.
- The Chair of the Board of Trustees receive regular reports on safeguarding arrangements and evidence of best practice within the hospice to foster a supportive culture in addressing safeguarding issues.
- The effective use of electronic reporting such as The Vantage Sentinel and The Care Database provides the ability to highlight and maintain record of safeguarding related issues.
- We follow the key stages of responding to safeguarding concerns, as recommended by the Royal College of Nursing:
 - a. Identify safeguarding concerns
 - b. Report the concerns following local policies and partner agencies
 - c. Participate in inquiries and the development of a protection plan
 - d. Reflect on the outcomes and learning

Libby Basson – Director of Care and Family Services/Designated Safeguarding Lead

¹ In this document, a 'service user' is defined as anyone who is registered in our caseload; and also means children, young people and adults up to the age of 25 years throughout.

² The term 'safeguarding practitioner' refers to senior staff with Level 4 or 5 safeguarding training.