



Independent Regulator  
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24 August 2009

To: NHS Foundation Trust Chairs  
NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executives

## **Safeguarding children and the Care Quality Commission Review**

On 16 July 2009 we wrote to you following publication of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) report into the findings of their review of arrangements in the NHS for safeguarding children. The CQC expects to make data available from its review for benchmarking purposes during September.

In our letter we also set out the actions required in this area to ensure all necessary improvements to safeguarding arrangements are being made and that you are prepared for registration with the CQC in April 2010. The CQC is now reviewing the submitted data against self-declarations of compliance with core standard C2, which is about child protection and which may result in a number of NHS foundation trusts being considered non-compliant on this standard.

In our letter, we set out our expectation that as a minimum Boards should assure themselves that:

- Their foundation trust meets the statutory requirement with regard to the carrying out of Criminal Records Bureau checks;
- Child protection policies and systems are up to date and robust, including a process for following up children who miss outpatient appointments and a system for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns;
- All eligible staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training at level 1. In addition, a review of other training arrangements should be completed within 6 months, taking account of emerging messages from the national review of safeguarding training;
- Named professionals are clear about their roles and have sufficient time and support to undertake them;
- There is a Board level Executive Director lead for safeguarding, the Board reviews safeguarding across the organisation at least once a year and has robust audit programmes to assure it that safeguarding systems and processes are working. This will need to include clear procedures for A&E departments.

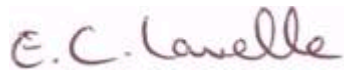
We required NHS foundation trusts to publish a declaration on their web-sites (and also in other media as they decide) as soon as possible when they are satisfied these arrangements are in place. We requested that you notify your relationship manager once the above declaration has been published, although the number of trusts which have notified us to date that this has been completed is limited.

We are therefore now asking you to notify us whether the above arrangements are in place and that you have either already published the above declaration or, if not, when you will be in a position to do so and the further actions required.

Please will you provide this information directly to [Gillian.murphy@monitor-nhsft.gov.uk](mailto:Gillian.murphy@monitor-nhsft.gov.uk) by Friday 4 September 2009.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please speak with your relationship manager.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E.C. Lavelle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light pink rectangular highlight behind it.

**Edward Lavelle**  
Regulatory Operations Director