

**Care Quality Commission  
Declaration of Compliance – Safeguarding Children**

Following the publication of the Care Quality Commission’s (CQC) report into the review of arrangements for Safeguarding Children a number of areas were identified nationally that required improvement. As a consequence of this all Trusts were asked to review their safeguarding arrangements and to provide the Board with the assurance that all necessary improvements are being made and that they will be prepared for registration with CQC in April 2010.

This briefing provides an update to Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust’s current position and an outline of the action plan for areas still demonstrating some improvement is required.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE TO THE BOARD	RESPONSE & ACTIONS REQUIRED
The Organisation meets statutory requirements in relation to Criminal Bureau Checks	Assurance given.
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.	<p>The Trust’s Child protection policies and systems have been reviewed and updated recently and there is ongoing development of new policies as required.</p> <p>An ‘informal process’ is currently in place for missed appointments new guidance has been developed and is currently at the consultation stage.</p> <p>Systems are in place for flagging concerns throughout areas where children are seen. Currently the IT system does not support a ‘marker’ to indicate concerns but <b>all</b> children are currently checked against the list provided of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan and staff are aware how to assess this and to contact social care regarding any concerns they have.</p>
All eligible staff have undertaken and up to date with level 1 training In addition a review of other training arrangements will be completed within 6 months taking into account emerging messages from the national review of safeguarding training.	Assurance given to staff training at this level and current review is being undertaken of training as recommended (completion Dec 09)
Named professionals are clear about their roles and have sufficient time and support to undertake them.	Assurance Given
There is 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.	Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Care Standards is the Board Level Executive Lead for Safeguarding and full assurance can be given that Safeguarding is regularly discussed and minuted at Board level with the Lead Professional reporting to the Healthcare Governance Committee on a quarterly basis

Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust is committed to ensuring robust effective processes are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and this is reflected in the assurance given to the Board.