

Safeguarding Children & Adults Supervision Policy

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CONSULTATION SCHEDULE		
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Safeguarding Group	Safeguarding Team	February 2019
Safeguarding Team	Safeguarding Team	December 2020
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1	New Policy		
2	Change to training guidance in references & change to Chief Nurse title.	21.12.2020	S Nightingale
3	Updated to reflect new organisation ICB	22.06.2022	S Nightingale
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SUMMARY

This document defines the Safeguarding Supervision Policy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board.

- This policy applies to Designated and Named Professionals working within the ICB, clinical staff working in environments where children and their families and adults with care and support needs are assessed and treated and their Line Managers.
- Safeguarding Supervision is “an accountable, reflective process which supports, assures and develops the knowledge, skills and values of an individual, group or team. The purpose is to improve the quality of their work to achieve good outcomes”.
- This policy supports the requirements and compliance with statutory guidance and legislative duties to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs; supervision being one element of this protective process.
- This Policy should be used in association with the ICB Safeguarding Children Policy, Adult Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Training Policy.
- Safeguarding supervision is the responsibility of the supervisee and the supervisor, who are both accountable to arrange, manage and record all sessions according to Policy timescales.

Contents	Page
1. Introduction	5
2. Scope of Policy	6
3. Policy Statement	7
4. Definition	7
5. Rationale	8
6. Stages of Safeguarding Supervision (Children)	9
7. Supervision in Adult Safeguarding	9
8. Aims and Objectives of Safeguarding Supervision Policy	10
9. Roles and Responsibilities	11
10. Review and Maintenance of Policy	13
11. References and Bibliography	14
Appendices	Page
Appendix 1: ICB Supervision Process	15
Appendix 2: Safeguarding Children & Adults Supervision Documentation – Agreement	16
Appendix 3: Safeguarding Children & Adults Supervision Documentation - Record	18
Appendix 4: Safeguarding Childrens Team Contact Details	19
Appendix 5: Safeguarding Adult Team Contact Details	20

1.0 Introduction

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is jointly committed to ensuring that all staff have access to advice and support from competent safeguarding professionals and that staff working with children, young people and families and adults with care and support needs receive Safeguarding Supervision appropriate to their level of contact and responsibility with children and families and adults with care and support needs in accordance with national and local standards and requirements.

The Children Act 2004, Section 11 sets out the duties for all services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and this includes effective and accountable processes which supports, assures and develops the knowledge, skills and values of practitioners in order to improve the quality of their work and therefore improve outcomes for children (HM Government, 2004).

The statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children states that an effective system for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of individual children when working with children and their families includes 'effective supervision and monitoring of the work'. Appropriate supervision by trained staff should be in place 'to keep children safe when using services' (HM Government, 2007).

The requirement for adult safeguarding supervision has been embedded into the intercollegiate document for adult safeguarding (Royal College of Nursing 2018). Health care practitioners should undertake clinical supervision regularly in order to share good practice and reflect on situations that could improve learning related to both preventative and responsive safeguarding actions. There are no defined parameters for frequency or content set out in the intercollegiate document for safeguarding adults. The same ethos for clinical supervision for practitioners working in the safeguarding children arena is followed. Each employing organisation is responsible for ensuring staff are offered clinical supervision commensurate to their role. The roles of the ICB Designated/Deputy Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Adults are to support the system and gain assurance that the offer is available for staff in provider organisations contracted by the ICB.

- 1.1** This policy has been written according to findings and recommendations following a gap analysis of supervisory practices according to staff role and working environment.
- 1.2** Named and Designated Safeguarding Professionals in the ICB, Primary Care and provider organisations have contact with NHS staff who present complex safeguarding issues which necessitates a prompt response in order for safe and effective decision making to take place. Specific reference is made to them within this policy.
- 1.3** Clinical staff working in environments where children and their families and adults with care and support needs are assessed and treated have increased exposure to complex safeguarding issues which necessitates mandatory provision be made for them and specific reference is made to them within this policy.

- 1.4 Enquiries into child and adult deaths and serious incidents involving children and adults have indicated serious failings in professional efficiency and effectiveness attributed in part to inadequate supervision and support for professionals providing a service to children and adults with care and support needs.
- 1.5 A formal Safeguarding Children and Adults Supervision framework is essential to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable children and adults by the provision of continuing assessments, monitoring and review of the professionals responsible for their welfare. A formal Safeguarding Children and Adults Supervision framework allows clinicians to plan and evaluate interventions in complex clinical situations.

It is acknowledged that this policy refers to specialist Safeguarding Supervision which is additional and complimentary to other types of managerial, professional or clinical supervision that may be offered within the ICB. Safeguarding Supervision will incorporate a management function, an educational function, a supportive function and a mediation function (Richards and Payne 1990).

There is support for its use for those working with children and families (DfE, 2015) and it is a means of assuring good professional practice as required in NMC & GMC Codes of Professional Conduct. It is particularly relevant in the current climate following the Laming Report (2003) and (2009), and the Munro review (2011) which places a clear responsibility on health organisations to support professionals in practice in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the child in the context of safeguarding children.

2.0 Scope of the Policy

- 2.1 The policy applies to ICB employees who perform a Safeguarding Designated, specialist or Named Professional role. It is aimed at all staff receiving or providing supervision in relation to safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and is also relevant to clinical healthcare professionals involved with direct patient care.
- 2.2 Those identified safeguarding employees of the ICB have an individual responsibility for the protection and safeguarding of children, young people and adults with care and support needs and the appropriate reflective processes to support safe decision making. This is outlined in their job descriptions.
- 2.3 Managers of safeguarding professionals and clinical staff having direct contact with children and their families and adults with care and support needs must ensure their staff are aware of, able to access this policy, and ensure its implementation in their line of responsibility and accountability.
- 2.4 This Policy should be used in association with the ICB Safeguarding Children Policy, Adult Safeguarding Policy and the Safeguarding Training Policy which provides practitioners with increased awareness of the categories of abuse, safeguarding process and the ICB expectations of compliance with safeguarding training.
- 2.5 The ICB are committed to all processes that safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs and promote their welfare and aims to commission

safeguarding services that will ensure equal access to all children, young people and adults with care and support needs, regardless of:

- Race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- Gender or sexuality
- Age
- Health status or disability
- Political or immigration status

3.0 Policy Statement

3.1 The ICB will fulfil the statutory duties relating to the safety and welfare of children and adults with care and support needs through the demonstration of:

- Compliance with all statutory guidance on safeguarding children including Children Act 2004 section 11.
- The Care Act 2014
- Active partnership and co-operation with Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board.
- Active partnership and co-operation with the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board

3.2 Ensuring that children, young people and adults with care and support needs are valued and their safety and welfare is considered during safeguarding supervision sessions which will in turn support best practice during the relevant stages of commissioning, including contracting arrangements and performance management frameworks.

4.0 Definition

Safeguarding Supervision is “an accountable process which supports, assures, and develops the knowledge, skills and values of an individual, group or team. The purpose is to improve the quality of their work to achieve good outcomes” (Skills for Care & CWDC, 2007). Supervision is supportive, facilitative, gives quality assurance, is reflective and questioning, and it aids role clarity. Supervision allows for action planning, it is educative, enhances communication and is a developmental tool for practice. It informs the wider thematic work of the Safeguarding Team and adds to the operational understanding of the organisation. Supervision should be a safe and affirming experience.

Safeguarding Supervision is not:

- Operational management, appraisal, audit, counselling, disciplinary or intended to take accountability or professional judgment from the practitioner being supervised.
- It is not intended to be directive – unless there is a significant and imminent risk to a child or adult with care and support needs that has not been identified by the practitioner.

5.0 Rationale

5.1 Safeguarding supervision for those working in safeguarding adults' roles is set out in the Intercollegiate document (RCN 2018).

5.2 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 3) state:

- In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
- Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.
- Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform to the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

5.3 Laming (2003) in his report on the death of Victoria Climbié was scathing in his criticism of organisational management. The Laming Report clearly stated that it was unacceptable for managers to be unaware of the factors influencing service delivery. Managers are responsible and accountable for ensuring the quality of services that children and families receive and need, therefore, to have mechanisms in place that enable them to have a clear understanding of what is happening at the point of delivery.

Managerial supervision is a mechanism that keeps the line manager fully aware of the ability of staff to fulfil their statutory requirements for safeguarding children cases in the context of their overall workload and staffing situation. Safeguarding supervision delivered by Designated and Named professionals supports and enhances this aim.

Further review by Lord Laming in 2009 evidenced that the need for supervision, of what is often complex case work, was as great as ever.

5.4 There is wide-spread recognition that safeguarding children and adults is extremely complex and stressful work, requiring staff to make difficult decisions that can impact directly on the safety of vulnerable children, their families and adults with care and support needs. Safeguarding Supervision should provide a safe forum for the discussion and exploration of issues and feelings and for the development of protection plans that safeguard and promote the child's or adult's welfare. Safeguarding Supervision in safeguarding children practice should assist clinicians, who have a duty of care, in developing the highest standards of clinical practice to improve the outcomes for children and adults with care and support needs. It should promote effective working relationships with other professionals and agencies that share responsibility for safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs.

5.5 Tait (1994) stated that Supervision should be a mechanism for protecting standards and public safety, while supporting the development of excellence in practice. Moreover, staff have reported that Supervision is a positive and worthwhile experience, which makes them feel supported in their role (Fyffe and Nicklin 1997). Butterworth (1997) also claimed that provision of Supervision could assist in the retention of staff.

5.6 As central regulation and prescription is reduced, local leaders need to set about creating a delivery system which supports continuous improvement in the quality of help to vulnerable children families. Involving service users in this process will be critical. Leaders and managers also need to support their workforce through evidence-based skills development and practice-focused supervision and create conditions in which practitioners can spend most of their time involved in effective direct work with children and families (Munro 2011).

6.0 Stages of Safeguarding Supervision in child safeguarding

Safeguarding supervision is a process which benefits the child, the professional and the organisation.

It contributes to the delivery and quality of safeguarding care given to children and their families by using reflective practice to ensure there is no collusive practice and that concerns for the child are identified and the child focus is maintained throughout the casework.

By exploring and defining the issues and through gentle questioning the supervisee is able to give a clear account of child / children / family and work done to date.

New understandings should emerge through questioning, probing and discussion. Actual thoughts and feelings will be articulated, and any discriminatory practice acknowledged.

Agreed plans for improvement are made and best possible solutions for the child evaluated. These will include issues arising in multi-disciplinary settings.

The outcome should be one achieved in partnership with the professional that benefits the child and / or the care being delivered by the professional. The restorative nature of supervision is also designed to have a beneficial impact on the practitioner and is integral to their professional development.

7.0 Supervision in Adult safeguarding

The intercollegiate document is not prescriptive on how safeguarding supervision is undertaken. As part of a range of activities with staff, it is a way of sharing good practice in preventative safeguarding as well as current safeguarding concerns (RCN 2018).

Adult safeguarding supervision follows the principals of critical reflective practice and professional self-development. It is based upon 6 key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work. These are:

- Principle 1: Empowerment.
- Principle 2: Prevention.
- Principle 3: Proportionality.
- Principle 4: Protection.
- Principle 5: Partnership.
- Principle 6: Accountability

All safeguarding work with vulnerable adults and safeguarding supervision provided to staff is expected to adhere to these principles.

8.0 Aims and Objectives of Safeguarding Supervision Policy

8.1 The primary aim of Safeguarding Supervision is to ensure that a health professional's clinical practice continually safeguards and improves the outcomes for children, young people, families and adults with care and support needs and ensures that frontline clinicians recognise that the rights, needs and welfare of the child or adult with care and support needs must be the primary consideration in all work with children, families and adults with care and support needs (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, The Care Act 2014). The Safeguarding Supervision Policy aims to support the delivery of the safeguarding supervisory process within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB by:

- Providing a framework outlining the principles and functions underpinning Safeguarding Supervision.
- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of staff and supervisors, ensuring clear lines of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding.
- Stating the boundaries of supervision so that conflict and confusion does not arise within the process.
- Establishing a mechanism for evaluation of the effectiveness of Safeguarding Supervision.
- Identifying training and professional safeguarding development needs.
- Promoting anti-discriminatory practice.
- To ensure that all practitioners employed or contracted by Staffordshire ICB who are in contact with children, young people, families and adults with care and support

needs have access to safeguarding professionals for advice, support and supervision in relation to any concerns regarding the welfare of a child or adult with care and support needs.

- To support provider organisations and Primary Care staff, delivering services to children, young people, families and adults with care and support needs, receive Safeguarding Supervision from identified experienced senior staff, supported by the Named Professionals in accordance with local agreements.
- To recognise the personal and emotional impact of managing complex issues and offer support via a process of telephone advice, one to one and group supervision using reflective practice, solution-based discussion to aid in the decision making.
- To promote adherence to standards, policies and procedures and support delivery of competent, accountable child and adult centred practice reflecting that of national and local safeguarding standards, based on research and evidence-based practice.
- To promote the embedding of lessons learned from serious cases into clinical practice.
- To support the identification of professional development and education needs and improve individual practitioners' knowledge and skills through links with the appraisal process and personal development reviews and plans.
- To ensure anti-discriminatory practice is a key standard of practice.
- To prevent the practitioner from carrying out tasks for which s/he is not trained or does not have the remit to undertake.
- Prevents complacency and reduces the stress associated with isolated decision making and burn-out.
- Alert the organisation to risk and improve the management of risk, including interagency working and links looking at specific issues that exist.

9.0 Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of all organisations and staff groups regarding safeguarding children are outlined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2023 and safeguarding adults with care and support needs in The Care Act 2014. All Designated, Named and identified staff and their managers should be aware of those responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with care and support needs.

9.1 Designated & Named Professionals / Safeguarding Supervisors Responsibilities:

Safeguarding supervisors will:

- Will undertake arrangement of their own supervision in keeping with local

agreements.

- Remain responsible for evidence of their individual competencies for the delivery of specialist safeguarding supervision and their own continuing professional education in safeguarding practice in accordance with intercollegiate guidelines and national training recommendations.
- All Primary Care and Provider Named Professional staff should have made available and access to the contact details for the ICB Designated and Named Professionals to receive advice and supervision.
- Maintain contemporaneous records and database of all supervision sessions personal to them and their supervisees.
- Will develop supervisory arrangements which prioritize newly appointed safeguarding practitioners to meet professional competencies for safeguarding practice in line with local agreements.
- Ensure the contract for safeguarding supervision is checked at the beginning of every session and has been signed annually by the supervisee.
- Ensure the confidentiality of the supervisee is protected in accordance with the contract but that information is shared where the safety of a child or adult with care and support needs is at risk or where there is an issue of professional competence and compliance identified. Communication with managers will be undertaken with the knowledge of the supervisee.
- Will monitor and report on the uptake of safeguarding supervision for their supervisees and organisations they represent in accordance with local agreements and service requirements.
- The ICB Designated and Named Professionals will work in partnership with Primary Care and organisational safeguarding leads to develop models of supervision appropriate to staff groups' needs (e.g., team supervision, action learning sets, issue specific group learning sets, serious case review supervision workshops).
- The ICB Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Children & Adults will provide a quarterly report of safeguarding supervision compliance to the Quality and Safety Committee. Direct challenge to the provider organisation will take place during periods of non-compliance and concerns regarding poor safeguarding supervision practice.

9.2 ICB Clinical Employees & Safeguarding Supervisee Responsibilities:

- Supervisees will prepare for the session by being accountable for selecting cases of concern to be discussed and bring the clients records to supervision if available.

- Supervisees are responsible for arranging their supervision in accordance with local policy and for ensuring they make the time to attend, cancelling only in the case of extreme circumstances and making immediate arrangements for a further session.
- Take responsibility for making effective use of the time and completing any actions agreed at supervision.
- Be willing to learn to develop safeguarding skills and be open to receiving support and constructive feedback.
- To be aware of the Safeguarding Children & Adults Supervision Policy and expectations attached to this.
- To uphold the principles of anti-oppressive and anti-discriminative practice in any case discussion.
- Supervisees are accountable for the completion of actions agreed with their supervisor and for reporting back to the supervisor if agreed actions cannot be carried out and the child remains at risk.
- Supervisees are responsible for retaining their personal supervision records and for discussing any professional developmental needs identified at their annual performance review with their manager.

9.3 ICB Managers Responsibilities:

- Support the policy development and implementation by promoting best practice in keeping with the national, local and research-based evidence in respect of the benefits of safeguarding supervision.
- Will notify the ICB Safeguarding Team about new starters into their services where the policy will require the new starter to be allocated to a supervisor.
- Are responsible for following up any non-compliance of their staff in respect of safeguarding supervision as notified to them by Designated and Named Professionals.
- Where relevant, ensure that annual appraisal systems include review of any actions agreed for the professional development and safeguarding competencies of the member of staff.

10.0 **Review and Maintenance of Policy**

- 10.1 This policy will be subject to a routine biennial review or as necessary and will also be subject to alteration if required through the creation of additional national policy, legislation or guidance and/or local guidance.

If revised, all stakeholders will be alerted to the new version. The review will be conducted

by the Safeguarding Children Team, Safeguarding Adult Team, Chief Nurse and Therapies Officer and other relevant personnel.

- 10.2 The Safeguarding Children and Adults Supervision Policy will be equality impact assessed and the quality of the Equality Impact Assessments will be assessed by the Equality and Human Rights Advisors.

11.0 References and Bibliography

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HM Government Care Act (2014) creates a single, consistent route to establishing an entitlement to public care and support for all adults with needs for care and support.

Appendix 1 – ICB Supervision Process

- Supervision may take the form of one-to-one sessions and group sessions according to local agreements.
- Sessions will take place at a mutually agreed time and place. Lack of interruption should be ensured where clinically possible.
- A Safeguarding Supervision Agreement should be agreed and signed prior to the commencement of supervision, and this should be reviewed annually.
- Supervision should be arranged every 12 weeks for Designated and Named Professionals and 16 weeks for clinical staff having direct contact with children, their families and adults with care and support needs.
- Each safeguarding supervision session should last a minimum of one hour and not exceeding two hours.
- It is the responsibility of the supervisee to bring cases to discuss or matters of concern. The supervisor may contribute learning from local and national serious cases, legislation and guidance updates.
- Issues discussed remain confidential unless poor or dangerous practice is discerned or the supervisee consents to disclosure. The supervisor has a duty under codes of professional conduct to inform supervisee of what action will be taken.
- Contemporaneous record of the supervision session is to be made by the supervisee and a copy given to the supervisor. Both copies need to be signed.

- All safeguarding records are kept in a confidential, locked facility and preferably kept electronically (password protected) by the supervisor and supervisee, according to local information governance protocol.

Appendix 2 - Safeguarding Children Supervision Documentation

Safeguarding Children Supervision Agreement

This is to be completed at the first supervision session and reviewed annually.

Date:	
Name of Supervisee:	
Name of Supervisor:	
Agreed Venue:	
Frequency of Supervision:	
Duration of Sessions:	

The aim of supervision is to:

- Reflect on practice
- Critically analyse problems
- Contribute to professional development
- Deepen clinical knowledge and skills about safeguarding children.

Structure

Supervisor and Supervisee should work together, preferably in relation to the purpose and focus of supervision, its frequency, duration, and location. Supervision sessions should last a minimum of one hour and not exceeding two hours. Safeguarding supervision sessions should be structured with preparation work having been carried out by both supervisor and supervisee.

Record Keeping

All supervision sessions should be recorded including areas covered, discussion points, analysis, agreed action plans, timescales and who action is to be undertaken by.

Cancellations

If a scheduled safeguarding supervision session is cancelled by either party, it will be re-scheduled at the point of cancellation by the supervisee, and a new date negotiated within 2 weeks wherever possible.

Disagreements

Areas of disagreement between supervisor and supervisee, or the need for further discussion outside the supervision session will be recorded on the supervision form (indicating that discussion will be escalated to a Line Manager).

Review of supervision

Supervision session, process, content, length, frequency, format and style should be reviewed by the supervisor and the supervisee at least annually.

The supervisee should retain a copy of this agreement for their personal file and a copy held by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children.

Signatures: Supervisor:

 Supervisor:

Appendix 3 - Record of Individual Safeguarding Children Supervision

Date:

Name of Supervisor:

Name of Supervisee:

Concerns/Issues

Discussion

Outcome/s required:

Agreed actions:

By whom:

By when:

Date & Time of next supervision:

Signature Supervisor:

Signature Supervisee:

Appendix 4 – Safeguarding Children Team Contact

ICB Safeguarding Children Team secure email address:

safeguardingchildren@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk

Appendix 5 - Adult Safeguarding Team Contact

ICB Adult Safeguarding Team secure email address:

safeguardingadults@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk