

Nursing Directorate
NHS England
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4th April 2016

Dear Colleague

The Role of Independent Chair of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Child Protection-Information Sharing (CP-IS) project update

I would like to ask for your professional support in your role as Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to support the roll out of CP-IS across your local community.

There are now 23 Local Authority areas and 16 unscheduled Health Care settings across 52 health settings that have 'gone live' onto CP-IS. This equates to 27,109 unique children plans uploaded onto CP-IS system and this number is going up on a weekly basis. This means more vulnerable children and young people are given additional protection each week as a result of being part of the CP-IS service. As the project rolls out, the coverage and protection for all vulnerable children will be increased.

The aim of the project is that where a child is subject to a CPP, a LAC, or a mother of an unborn child on a pre-birth protection plan attends an unscheduled health care setting the CP-IS alert is visible, and a notification is sent to the child's social worker within the Local Authority that the child originates from. This enables an open dialogue earlier between: parents/carers, children's social care and health leading to an earlier intervention (where needed) for the most vulnerable children and young people.

CP-IS provides benefits across the health and social care partnership including:

- Focused communication and information sharing across children's social care and health care staff in unscheduled health care settings,
- Building a stronger, more transparent relationship with health care due to information being shared,
- CP-IS access history provided to the local authority to help facilitate conversations with parents/carers and health professionals to further safeguard children who are most vulnerable,
- Local authorities will be able to monitor children subject to a child protection plan or looked after children who attend unscheduled health care settings outside their Local Authority area,
- Improved quality, accuracy, efficiency and security of information sharing

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One Local Authority had felt anxious about introducing CP-IS feeling it would lead to more work for social workers and front line staff, however, it has recently reported that:

“Actually although it is early days this has been found not to be the case. Feedback received from frontline staff is very positive in that by the Local Authority practitioners receiving information regarding a child’s attendance at an unscheduled care setting has led to more meaningful and timely conversations with parents/carers, child care social worker and health professionals.”

As you are aware, Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. CP-IS will help you to deliver this responsibility.

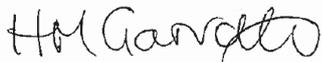
The CP-IS project features within the NHS Standard Contract for 2016/17 and we need to ensure that NHS provider organisations and relevant stakeholders are aware and that plans are being mobilised to implement the solution in your areas. I have recently sent a letter to all Directors of Nursing within Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Professionals are progressing CP-IS within the local health community. However, implementation of CP-IS has been slower than expected. I am inviting you as Independent Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) to raise the profile of CP-IS service with your Local Authorities and Unscheduled care settings to encourage them to work with Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to implement the systems and processes to support us deliver CP-IS and the outcomes for Children and Young People.

If your LSCB need any help or assistance with the uptake of CP-IS service within your area please do not hesitate to contact the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) their details are as follows;

Email: cpis@hscic.gov.uk or alternatively you can telephone on 0300 303 5678

You can also contact the following people from NHS England cathy.sheehan1@nhs.net or v.nugent@nhs.net

Signed on behalf of NHS England



**Hilary Garratt,
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Director of Nursing, NHS England**