

## QVH Safeguarding Assurance Statement

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p>Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is firmly embedded within the wider duties of this organisation. QVH responsibilities include the provision of safe, high quality care and support for all the patients who attend our services.</p> <p>We continuously revisit and develop the safeguarding arrangements we have in place as national policy, legal frameworks and research evidence changes over time.</p> <p>QVH ensure that the principles and duties of safeguarding adults and children are holistically, consistently and conscientiously applied with the well-being of those adults and children at the heart of all we do. For adults we also respect their autonomy and need for empowerment in relation to individual decision making.</p> <p>Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse or neglect is a collective responsibility; we work closely with other agencies to co-operate to help and support adults in need and their carers'. Good partnership working is essential, QVH practitioners work closely with colleagues using systems which enable us to work collaboratively and safely when children and their families require additional care and support.</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Legal Framework:</b></p> <p>Responsibilities for safeguarding are enshrined in legislation. Some duties apply only to children, some duties apply only to adults, and some apply to both.</p> <p>Adults have a legal right to make their own decisions, even if they are unwise, as long as they have the capacity to make that decision. However if an adult repeatedly makes unwise decisions that put them at significant risk of harm or exploitation, or makes a particular unwise decision there might be a need for further investigation.</p> <p>The welfare of the child is of paramount consideration, subject to that, decision- making power for children lies with those who have parental responsibility. When children or those with parental responsibility for them reject measures that could save them from significant harm, their wishes can be overridden. When a child understands the choice to be made and its consequences, based on Gillick competency, the child's decision prevails. Parents and carers will still be fully involved unless the criteria set out in the Fraser Guidelines apply.</p> <p>The Mental Capacity Act covers and empowers children aged 16 and 17 years. A young person has capacity to make decisions unless it is established he or she lacks it.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>QVH Safeguarding duties:</b></p> <p>Safeguarding is everyone's business at QVH.</p> <p>QVH ensure that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>QVH Staff have a duty of care to share concerns about a child's welfare if they believe a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm.</p> <p>QVH has a Named Nurse and Named Doctor for Safeguarding Children. They have a Child Sexual Exploitation and a Looked After Children Lead Nurse.</p> <p>QVH is represented on the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board by the Director of Nursing &amp; Quality.</p>

	<p>QVH staff are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding adults and the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) in all that they do.</p> <p>QVH has an Adult Safeguarding Named Nurse and a PREVENT Lead Nurse.</p> <p>QVH has a MCA lead to advice and support staff so that the balance between safeguarding and empowerment of individuals is carefully thought through, so that Deprivations of Liberty (DoL) is recognised and relevant procedures followed.</p> <p>QVH is represented on the West Sussex Safeguarding Adult Board by the Director of Nursing &amp; Quality.</p> <p>Good information sharing practice is at the heart of good safeguarding practice. QVH staff have access to advice and support when required. Information will be shared if it helps protect children or adults.</p> <p>QVH use the statutory scheme for vetting all people who work with children and adults. We support staff or patients if we become aware that they are experiencing domestic violence and abuse. Using local arrangements to help prevent harm to those involved or taking action to protect if required.</p> <p>All QVH Board members complete the Fit and Proper Person Test before they are appointed. Good safeguarding practice requires openness, transparency and trust. QVH acts in an open and transparent way with patients and staff in relation to care and treatment provided. We tell patients about any unintended or unexpected incident that occurs which might cause harm.</p> <p>QVH co-operate if requested to participate in any adult or child case reviews.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>QVH roles and responsibilities:</b></p> <p>All QVH staff have a responsibility to safeguard children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>QVH safeguarding leadership is provided by Director of Nursing &amp; Quality, Paediatric Safeguarding Named Nurse and Doctor, Adult Safeguarding Named Nurse and MCA Lead. QVH has safeguarding accountability and assurance arrangements in place which are quality assured by the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board and West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board.</p> <p>All QVH staff are trained in line with their role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding adults</li> <li>• Safeguarding children</li> <li>• Prevent</li> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> <li>• Mental Capacity Act</li> <li>• Deprivation of Liberties</li> </ul> <p>QVH undertake safe recruitment practices and have arrangements in place for dealing with allegations against people who work with children or vulnerable adults.</p> <p>We have a range of safeguarding policies and procedures which are regularly updated.</p> <p>We have effective partnership arrangements in place to facilitate working with other agencies.</p> <p>QVH staff are aware of their personal responsibility to report any concerns and to ensure poor practice is identified and tackled.</p> <p>Consent for care and treatment is obtained in line with legislation and guidance.</p> <p>QVH is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).</p>