

## QVH Safeguarding Assurance Statement

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p>We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and adults from abuse and neglect. QVH responsibilities include the provision of safe, high-quality care and support for all the patients who use our services.</p> <p>Good partnership working is essential, QVH practitioners work closely with colleagues using systems which enable us to work collaboratively and safely when people require additional care and support.</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Legal</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>The Care Act 2014 applies to adults (18 and over) and specifies an adult’s right to live free from abuse and neglect.</p> <p>The Mental Capacity Act (2005) empowers those aged 16 years and above to make their own decisions, even if they are unwise, as long as they have the capacity to make that decision.</p> <p>There may be occasions where safeguarding procedures need to be followed to protect an individual when they may be considered to be under coercion or duress.</p> <p>The Children Act (1989) states ‘The welfare of the child is paramount’ this means the child comes first. Those with parental responsibility usually have the decision- making power for children; staff have a duty to work with them in the best interests of the child.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>QVH roles and responsibilities:</b></p> <p>All QVH staff both clinical and non-clinical have a responsibility to safeguard children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>QVH safeguarding leadership is provided by the Chief Nursing Officer, Paediatric Safeguarding Named Nurse and Doctor, Adult Safeguarding Named Nurse and MCA Lead and are responsible for strategic leadership and gaining assurance in relation to safeguarding issues.</p> <p>QVH has safeguarding accountability and assurance arrangements in place which are quality assured by Sussex Integrated Care Board, the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership 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>• Looked After Children</li> <li>• Prevent</li> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> <li>• Exploitation/Modern Slavery</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</p>

	<p>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>
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**QVH Safeguarding Assurance Statement, reviewed November 2025.**