

Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Safeguarding means protecting a citizen's health, wellbeing and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It is an integral part of providing high-quality health care. Safeguarding children, young people and adults is a collective responsibility.

Those most in need of protection include:

- *Children and young people*
- *Adults at risk, such as those receiving care in their own home, people with physical, sensory and mental impairments, and those with learning disabilities*

NHS England (2022)

At University Hospitals Dorset we take our responsibility to safeguard very seriously. We recognise that anyone could be at risk of abuse or neglect, that a person may be more or less vulnerable at different times of their life and that we are in a position to hear, recognise and respond accordingly. This is aligned to our Trust objectives and values to continually improve and ensure our services are safe, compassionate, timely, and responsive.

We believe safeguarding requires a 'Think Family' approach as children, young people, adults and their families and carers do not exist or operate in isolation. We recognise safeguarding is part of building a safer community, to prevent exploitation and harm. Working in partnership with others strengthens safeguarding and we share information appropriately to protect people at risk. UHD participates fully as a member of Dorset and the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Safeguarding Adults Boards and their sub-groups, and Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership sub-groups.

We believe that safeguarding is everybody's business. Every member of our staff has an individual responsibility for safeguarding; all our staff and volunteers are equipped with training to recognise abuse and respond accordingly. We continually seek to improve and develop our training for staff. Our staff are supported by the Safeguarding Team.

The Trust Board provides the support and resources to enable the delivery of statutory responsibilities. The Executive Lead for Safeguarding is our Chief Nursing Officer, supported by the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer and safeguarding professionals across the Trust.

Chief Executive

Siobhan Harrington

Chief Nursing Officer

Sarah Herbert