

Safeguarding Children and Young People at Bedford Hospital (Chief Executive's Statement)

Bedford Hospital NHS Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and takes its responsibility seriously.

All staff have a duty to uphold our values and to be aware of the special attention children and young people (under 18 years of age) should be given while in our care.

As Chief Executive of Bedford Hospital NHS Trust I have Board-level responsibility for safeguarding children. Our Medical Director, Mr Ed Neale, acts on my behalf to ensure the Board is satisfied that all measures are taken to safeguard children and young people in our care.

Actions taken and measures in place are as follows:

- **Reports** are presented to the board of directors every six months on safeguarding children and more regularly if required;
- **A Named Nurse, Deputy Named Nurse and a Named Doctor** have specific responsibility for safeguarding children across the Trust - they are clear about their roles and are given sufficient time to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities;
- **Clear procedures** are in place in the emergency department (A&E) and staff receive regular update training on safeguarding children;
- **CRB** (Criminal Records Bureau) checks are made on all new staff adhering to the NHS Employer guidelines and the Trust is compliant with safeguarding guidelines;
- **Training** in safeguarding children is one of the components of the corporate induction programme for all new starters and is included in the annual mandatory refresher training which is being made available as e-learning;
- **A review** of other training arrangements is underway;
- **Audits** are carried out regularly to check and convince us that our systems and processes are effective.

Jean O'Callaghan
Chief Executive

2009/2010