

## Safeguarding Children Case Conference Attendance

*“Case conferences are life changing events for children and their families”.*

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) fully recognise the importance of case conferences and the impact on children and their families. Attendance at case conferences has been a focal point for the Organisation over the past year and we have been working hard with staff to ensure their compliance at these meetings; both in terms of attendance and provision of reports. There is clear governance around this agenda, with case conferences playing a key part in our Quality Account and monitoring mechanisms via the Trust wide Safeguarding Group, the Patient Safety Group and the Quality Committee of the Trust Board.

### Current position

Across Kent, the named nurses work collaboratively with the case conference administrators and receive copies of all invitations to attend a case conference. The named nurses will make contact with the relevant care-coordinator and support them to attend or to write a contributory report (where families are known to us). As a Trust we recognise that case conferences are life changing events for the families involved and we will endeavor to attend if we are involved with those families. Non-attendance is reported to team managers to prompt them to discuss the issue with practitioners in supervision.

Review case conferences tend to be booked well in advance however they are currently the least well attended. This is driven by a number of factors such as the service user having been discharged from services or hasn't engaged. The safeguarding team is working to mitigate these factors and continues to impress upon staff the importance of maintaining involvement when there are potential risks to a child(ren).

During quarter 4, 2013/14, attendance compliance increased from 56% (Q3) to 78%. Whilst shy of the 80% target, the progress made has been positive and must now be enhanced and sustained.

### Plans for improvement

The 2014/15 Quality Account sets a challenging target of 100% attendance at conferences where the family is known to KMPT.

The safeguarding team have a number of actions planned to help achieve this:

- Working with the case conference administrators to improve the timeliness and accuracy of meeting notification and in ensuring Named Nurses consistently receive copies of invitations.
- Where possible the Named Nurses will complete reports when a Care Coordinator is unable to and they will provide a report for any client that has been discharged within 6 months of the conference on request.

- Care Coordinators are reminded to involve the Named Nurses when they receive an invite; involvement from the named nurse will aid the Care Coordinator when they produce the report and attend the conference.
- Named Nurses will continue to spend time with teams, being accessible to Care Coordinators and providing support to those who may be anxious about attending conferences.
- Specialist child protection supervision will be available to better engage frontline staff with the conference process.
- The support of the safeguarding champions is an additional resource that helps both the safeguarding teams and the frontline staff. The champions meet quarterly to maintain knowledge and to ensure they are confident in taking key messages back to the workplace.
- All training promotes the importance of information sharing through case conferences, professionals meetings and use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).
- The Trust wide Safeguarding Group receives regular updates, allowing the executive lead for Safeguarding to hold Service Lines within the Trust to account. Service Lines also have regular discussions at their directorate governance meetings.