Board Safeguarding Commitment and Assurance Statement

The Board of Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, adults at risk of abuse or neglect and carers. We recognise our collective responsibility to ensure safeguarding is embedded throughout the Trust and that people who use our services are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and harm.

In accordance with the Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), the NHS England Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework (SAAF), and local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, we are committed to providing safe, effective, compassionate and person-centred care.

The Board is committed to creating a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and where individuals are listened to, respected and supported to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our Assurance

The Board receives regular safeguarding assurance and is assured that effective arrangements are in place to support safeguarding across the Trust.

1. Leadership, Governance and Accountability

We are assured that:

- Clear lines of safeguarding accountability are established from Board level through to frontline services.
- Executive and professional leadership for safeguarding are in place and supported by appropriately qualified safeguarding professionals.
- Governance arrangements enable safeguarding performance, risks, incidents, learning and improvement activity to be effectively monitored and acted upon.
- Safeguarding remains a key component of the Trust's quality, safety and governance framework.
- Safeguarding governance, assurance and reporting are aligned to the NHS England Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework (SAAF), enabling the Board to receive appropriate assurance regarding safeguarding effectiveness, statutory compliance and continuous improvement.

2. Competent, Supported and Confident Workforce

We are assured that:

- Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and receive role-appropriate safeguarding training.
- Staff have access to safeguarding advice, support and supervision.
- Safeguarding practice is supported through a culture of openness, learning and professional curiosity.
- The voices of children, adults, carers and people with lived experience are used to inform safeguarding practice, service improvement and governance.

3. Effective Policies, Procedures and Practice

We are assured that:

- Safeguarding policies, procedures and pathways are up to date, accessible and aligned to national and local requirements.
- Staff are supported to identify, record, escalate and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns.
- Safeguarding practice promotes timely, person-centred and outcome-focused interventions.
- Effective partnership working supports coordinated responses to risk and vulnerability.

4. Learning, Improvement and Quality Assurance

We are assured that:

- Learning from safeguarding reviews, incidents, audits, complaints and feedback is used to improve practice.
- Safeguarding quality assurance activities provide oversight of compliance and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Learning from local and national safeguarding reviews is shared and embedded across services.
- Improvement actions are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate impact on practice and outcomes.

5. Think Family Approach

We are committed to a Think Family approach that recognises the interconnected needs of children, adults, carers and wider family networks.

We are assured that:

- Safeguarding practice considers the needs, experiences and wellbeing of all family members.

- Children and carers are recognised as partners in planning and decision making where appropriate.
- Services work collaboratively to provide coordinated support that promotes safety, wellbeing and resilience.

6. Commitment to the Care Act Safeguarding Principles

The Trust is committed to embedding the six safeguarding principles of the Care Act:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

These principles underpin our safeguarding practice and guide how we work with people, families, carers and partner agencies to achieve positive outcomes.

Our Commitment

We will continue to work collaboratively with safeguarding partnerships, commissioners, providers and community organisations to strengthen safeguarding arrangements and improve outcomes for local people.

The Board is committed to maintaining effective safeguarding arrangements, promoting continuous improvement and ensuring that safeguarding remains central to the delivery of high-quality care.

Through strong leadership, effective governance, skilled staff, meaningful engagement and partnership working, we will continue to strengthen our safeguarding culture and seek assurance that our arrangements are effective, responsive and continuously improving.

We are committed not only to meeting our statutory duties but to striving for excellence in safeguarding practice and delivering the highest standards of care, protection and support for the communities we serve.

We recognise that effective safeguarding requires curiosity, cultural humility and a commitment to understanding each person's unique circumstances. We will continue to challenge inequalities and work with individuals, families, carers and communities to ensure safeguarding arrangements are fair, inclusive and effective for all.

Approved by Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust Board

Signed by:



Phil Gayle
Chair of the Trust Board



Roisin Fallon- Williams
Chief Executive Officer



Lisa Stalley- Green
Chief Nursing Officer and Executive Lead for Safeguarding

Approval date: 7 October 2026

Review date: 7 October 2027