

To  
Chief Executives – Cluster Strategic Health Authorities  
Chief Executives – Cluster Primary Care Trusts

Gateway Reference Number 18126

Dear Colleagues

**Arrangements to secure children’s and adult safeguarding in the future NHS – the new accountability and assurance framework – interim advice**

The NHS Commissioning Board Authority has been working with the Department of Health and health, local authority and other partners to develop an accountability and assurance framework that will clarify future roles and responsibilities for safeguarding both children and young people and adults within the reformed NHS. We expect to publish the full framework in the autumn, at the same time as the Department for Education publishes the revised *Working Together to Safeguard Children* and related statutory guidance on which it has been consulting over the summer.

The enclosed interim advice focuses primarily on the new NHS commissioning system. It provides additional information, in particular, to emerging clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) which will need to demonstrate as part of authorisation, that they have appropriate systems in place for discharging their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding. The advice also sets out how the NHS Commissioning Board is expected to deliver its own safeguarding responsibilities, both as a commissioner and in its wider oversight, assurance and policy role, and outlines ongoing work to help secure successful implementation.

We hope PCT clusters will also find this interim advice helpful in their work with CCGs as they develop, to ensure that they are well prepared for their safeguarding responsibilities and that robust local arrangements are put in

place. Meanwhile, we know you are aware of the vital importance of maintaining appropriate arrangements for safeguarding as the health system goes through transition. PCTs and SHAs continue, of course, to be subject to the statutory responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 and must continue to meet the requirements set out in detail in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.

If you have any queries with regard to this letter and the interim advice, or need additional support, please contact Ursula Gallagher, Assistant Director of Nursing/ Transition Lead, Department of Health – [ursula.gallagher@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ursula.gallagher@dh.gsi.gov.uk), 020 7210 5598.

Yours sincerely



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