

Safeguarding Annual Report 2024-2025

Trust Public Board 31 July 2025

Presented for:	Information
Presented by:	Karen Sykes, Head of Nursing for Safeguarding, Mental Health Legislation, Learning Disabilities and Autism.
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Previous Committees:	Quality Assurance Committee 19 June 2025

2025/26 Commitments	Category	✓
Support our patients to get home a day sooner	Care	✓
Be in the top 25% trusts for patient experience and efficiency in outpatient	Quality	
Support each other to act with kindness and compassion	Team	✓
Recognise and act upon moments that matter to our patients	Compassion	✓
Support our staff to spend every pound wisely	Finance	
Make best use of our estate, equipment and digital assets	Resources	✓
Reduce our carbon footprint by creating greener patient pathways	Sustainability	

Risk Appetite Framework				
Level 1 Risk	(✓)	Level 2 Risks	(Risk Appetite Scale)	Impact
External Risk	✓	Regulatory Risk - We will comply with or exceed all regulations, retain its CQC registration and always operate within the law.	Averse	Moving Towards

Key points	
1. This annual report provides information on the activities of the Trust Safeguarding Team and assurance that the Trust is meeting its statutory obligations and the required national standards with regard to safeguarding.	Information
2. Provides a summary of the key issues and activity in relation to Safeguarding Children, Adults, Prevent, Mental Health and Mental Capacity during 2024/25.	Information

1. Summary

This annual report provides a summary of the key issues and activity in relation to the Trust's safeguarding teams during 2024/2025 and provides assurance to the trust Board and external agencies that evidences how Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) discharges its statutory duties in relation to:

- The statutory requirement under section 11 of the Children Act (1984, 2004) to safeguard and protect the children and families who access care.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in line with the Care Act 2014 and Department of Health Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 (October 2014)
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards amendment in 2007.
- Care Quality Commission 'Healthcare for all' (2008) requirements in relation to Care of People with a Learning Disability.
- Mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Prevent duty under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

The term safeguarding covers everything that assists a child, young person or adult at risk to live a life that is free from abuse and neglect and which enables them to retain independence, well-being, dignity and choice. It is about preventing abuse and neglect, as well as promoting good practice for responding to concerns on a multi -agency basis.

All safeguarding work across the Trust is underpinned by the Trust values.

2. Background

The Annual Report provides the Trust Board with:

- An overview of the national and local context of safeguarding.
- An overview of the areas of practice included in safeguarding within the Trust.
- An update on safeguarding activity within 2024/2025 including progress made in strengthening safeguarding practice and outcomes
- Assurance that the Trust is meeting its statutory obligations and the required national standards with regard to Safeguarding, Prevent, Mental Health and Mental Capacity.
- A briefing on the challenges and work to be addressed by the safeguarding team working in partnership across all Trust teams in 2025/2026.

3. Financial Implications

The Safeguarding Annual report provides assurance that the Trust is meeting its statutory duties and there is no identified financial implication.

4. Risk

The Quality Assurance Committee provides oversight of the Trust's Safeguarding, Prevent, Mental Health and Mental Capacity compliance. We will comply with We will comply with or exceed all regulations, retain its CQC registration and always operate within the law. There was no material change to the risk appetite statement related to the level 2 risk category and the Trust continues to operate within the risk appetite for the level 1 risk category (external risks) set by the Board.

5. Publication Under Freedom of Information Act

This paper has been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6. Recommendation

Whilst Safeguarding, Prevent, Mental Capacity and Mental Health agendas continue to be a challenging area for all health agencies and multi-agency partners, the Trust continues to actively respond and contribute to regional and national developments. This Annual Report demonstrates that safeguarding vulnerable people remains a significant priority for the Trust and offers assurance that the annual work programme has been delivered, and the Trust continues to meet its statutory duties as well as proactively developing safeguarding provision and implementing learning from adverse events into frontline practice. Safeguarding children and adults at risk continues to have a high profile within the Trust. Robust safeguarding and mental health legislation structures and processes ensure that the Trust meets its statutory requirements and safeguards its most vulnerable patients.

The Trust Board is asked to:

- Receive this report for assurance that LTHT is meeting its statutory safeguarding duties and is following good practice.
- Receive the report for information and note the improvements made during 2024/2025 and the priority areas for implementation during 2025/26.

7. Supporting Information

The following papers make up this report:

- Appendix 1: Safeguarding Annual Report.

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Date paper written 7th July 2025.