

## **Safeguarding Declaration 2023-2024**

In 2021 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published a report on their review of the quality of care at Connect Health Limited (CHL) and we were rated as 'Good' with outstanding for 'well led'. In 2023 Connect Health Pain Services Limited (CHPS) – NWCATS MSK was also inspected and again rated as 'Good' with outstanding for 'well led'.

As part of the comprehensive inspection, the Safeguarding Children and Adults arrangements within CHL and CHPS were reviewed. The CQC were assured with the processes, procedures and policies in place regarding Safeguarding Children and Adults. This assurance is shared with varying Integrated Care Boards that we work with who continue to monitor us.

Both CHL and CHPS continues to work with its partners to respond to initiatives and reviews at both national and local levels. Dr Graeme Wilkes, Chief Medical Officer, is the Organisation's Accountable Officer for Safeguarding as well as the Board level Director.

The Board at CHL and CHPS regularly review safeguarding arrangements across the organisation in order to ensure that the safeguarding systems and processes in place are effective.

In particular, the Board is assured that:

- CHL and CHPS fulfils the statutory requirement to complete Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks effectively
- Safeguarding Children and Adult policies and procedures are annually reviewed, and their effectiveness tested.
- Safeguarding Children and Adults training is provided within the Trust and compliance levels are reviewed and monitored internally and externally through the National Safeguarding panel and the Clinical Governance Committee.

The Director of Governance and Quality and Designated Safeguarding Officers are all clear about their roles and have sufficient time and support to undertake them. All our staff have a responsibility to ensure that their practice is robust and complies with statutory requirements.

CHL and CHPS assures that the services it provides meets its statutory responsibilities in respect of providing a safe system that safeguards vulnerable children, young people and adults.