



Child Protection – Information Sharing

Improving decisions about clinical care

Health and social care staff need to share information to help them provide better care and earlier interventions for children who are considered vulnerable and at risk.

There are 152 local authorities and more than 1,200 unscheduled healthcare settings in England (such as emergency departments, walk-in centres, and maternity units) using more than 75 different computer systems.

The Child Protection – Information Sharing project (CP-IS) is connecting these systems and helping sites to improve business processes so essential information can be shared securely.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust provides acute healthcare services to a population of approximately half a million people. The trust went live with CP-IS in March 2015.

Michelle Mulvaney, the trust's Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, is already seeing the difference that CP-IS makes to vulnerable children presenting for care at Watford General Hospital;

“A young child was brought to the emergency department by ambulance and was showing unusual behaviours, such as drowsiness and slurred speech. On admission the child's demographics, including the NHS number, were checked and a CP-IS child care alert was visible. This alerted us that the child was on a child protection plan (CPP) so their social worker was contacted immediately.

Helping health and social care staff to share information and better protect society's most vulnerable children.

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“The social worker’s knowledge of the family gave us additional information to help us with our clinical decision-making. The possibility of a drug-related presentation was considered, leading to an immediate urine toxicology test. This proved positive for cannabis.

“The result of the test was shared with the social worker and a child protection investigation (Section 47) was initiated. The outcome of the child protection investigation was that the child was removed from the family and placed with a foster family.

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West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Impact of CP-IS

- Having access to CP-IS information promotes the duty of care and is paramount to the child’s safety and well-being.
- CP-IS provides information that can help clinicians to make more holistic clinical assessments and take better-informed decisions about investigations and treatments.
- CP-IS helps to foster good partnership working that enhances the safeguarding of the child.

CP-IS is currently being introduced to local authorities and unscheduled healthcare settings across England.

For more information, please go to www.digital.nhs.uk/cpis