Child Protection – Information Sharing Newsletter

NHS Digital

Child
Protection
Information
Sharing

What's New?

Covid-19

The team have been working hard to reduce the burden on each of the 148 live Local Authorities at a time where they are stretched due to COVID-19 by providing safeguarding data via CP-IS. The CHIS services are transferring the data to other settings in advance of the strategic development of the core CP-IS system. The data is now available to 0-19 services which allows them to prioritise and appropriately safeguard children.

Thank you
to all involved in the CP-IS data flow project

Key Achievements

99% of unscheduled healthcare settings live

97% of Local Authorities live

(The four LAs that aren't live with CP-IS have multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) auditing process in place.)

190K children on a protection plan and looked after children

10,000+ alerts each month

19,473 alerts sent during period 23 March 2019 – 10 May 2019

16,935 alerts sent during period 23 March 2020 – 10 May 2020 (during COVID-19 Pandemic
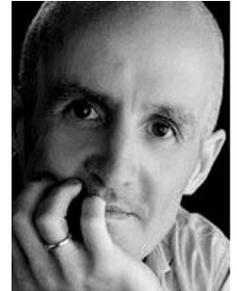
Safeguarding News

We've been working hard to support front line safeguarding professionals during this period. Presentations at unscheduled care settings have decreased by a third and the number of case conferences have reduced by 1-2% meaning that children have been at risk of receiving less oversight. Since easing the lockdown there has been a push to check-in with each of the children on the vulnerable children's list and there have been reported increases in new children known to social services.

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

Meet the Team

Kenny Gibson, National Head of Safeguarding, NHS England

"Dear child protection colleagues, as I hand-over the SRO-reigns for CPIS to Catherine Randall I want to say a massive thank-you to all the CPIS team at NHS Digital, all the social workers who log children onto CPIS and all the practitioners and system leaders across the NHS who have implemented the best child protection system in Europe. These protected children are at the heart of CPIS and out of COVID we intend to embolden CPIS to protect the paramountcy of the child at all times with all Local Authorities, every general practice and all early years community services by April 2023 - after all, every child matters."

Catherine Randall, Deputy Head of Safeguarding and CP-IS SRO, NHS England

"I joined NHS England in September 2017 as the deputy head of Safeguarding for NHS England/NHS Improvement. In July 2020 I took over the senior responsible officer for child protection information sharing. I am looking forward to working with NHS Digital and all our partners to realise the long-term plan ambition of ensuring that CP-IS is embedded into schedule care, primary care, maternity, health visiting and school nursing services."

Cathy Sheehan, Clinical Lead – Safeguarding, NHS England

"I joined NHS England in October 2015 as Clinical Lead for Child Protection-Information Sharing (CP-IS) and have been working with NHS Digital CP-IS colleagues to implement this important safeguarding programme of care. CP-IS is a national pathfinder initiative that has developed a secure platform for sharing safeguarding information that that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings. As CP-IS phase 1 implementation is almost complete with just 4 local authority areas and 9 remaining ambulance trusts yet to go live across the unscheduled healthcare footprint, it is time to build on this success and realise the LTP ambition of ensuring that CP-IS is embedded across scheduled care including primary care by 2022/23."

Martin Dennys, CP-IS Programme Director, NHS Digital

"I worked as IT provider to UCLH before taking up a role at NHS Digital 11 years ago. I have had responsibility for a broad range of national NHS digital services (Spine, E-Referrals, N3, SCR) including within the data/analytics part of the business. In my secondment Genomics England I established the data centre for the 100,000 full genome sequences in 4 months. For the last 3½ years I have been responsible for Digital Child Health and Digital Maternity along with the Child Protection and Information Service (CP-IS). The Digital Maternity programme offered over 152,000 women access to their digital maternity records. The child health programme already covers 18% of children and their screening and vaccination details. I have just taken responsibility for technical delivery for the mass flu and Covid vaccination programme.

I am now focused on sharing child-protection information with many more clinical professionals and using digital agile delivery techniques to reduce implementation and take-up times considerably. I am also very keen to broaden the scope of children who have additional digital support, and that children's social care and NHS information can be safely and securely linked and exchanged to ensure their wellbeing and improve their health outcomes."

Better use of local authority resources

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.

Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire County Council went live with CP-IS in March 2015. Approximately 262,000 children and young people under the age of 18 live in Hertfordshire (23% of the county's population). In August 2015, 721 of these children and young people were subject to a child protection plan and 1,033 children were looked after by Hertfordshire County Council.

We talked to Liz Peters, Hertfordshire County Council's Safeguarding and Child Review Lead, to learn about the benefits the local authority is seeing from CP-IS.

"CP-IS has been a real driver behind improving our data quality. CP-IS requires us to upload details about all of the children in our care that are either looked after or subject to a child protection plan, including plans for unborn children. This information can then be shared with clinical staff in unscheduled healthcare settings to help them make more informed decisions. At the same time, CP-IS notifies us if and when any of our children present for unscheduled treatment anywhere in England."

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NHS Digital

Better use of local authority resources

"For this to work, the information we upload needs to be consistent and accurate - something which CP-IS has really helped us to achieve. Previously, we would send paper lists of child protection information to the neighbouring health providers every month. Before doing so, we would need to check each list was up to date, because in some instances there would be up to 100 cases that were inaccurate in some way. The data cleansing exercise would often take up to two days to complete."

"Because information is fed into CP-IS automatically on a daily basis, it has given real momentum to improving and maintaining our data quality. Data cleansing exercises have reduced from two days to just one hour and our accuracy is estimated to be 95% at minimum and typically better."

"CP-IS removes the need to search for and provide information manually and by phone, freeing up our resources to apply elsewhere."
Liz Peters,
Safeguarding and Child Review Lead, Hertfordshire County Council

"The automatic nationwide sharing of data in a standard format reduces unwarranted variation and simplifies our decisions about what information we need to share and when. We've found that it removes the need to search for and provide information manually and by phone, freeing up our resources to apply elsewhere."

Impact of CP-IS

- CP-IS builds a picture of a child's attendances at unscheduled care settings anywhere in England.

- CP-IS helps to improve data quality by using the NHS number as the unique identifying number.

- With CP-IS, less time is spent searching for and providing information, freeing up resources to apply elsewhere.

- CP-IS information is available 24/7 and shared with the right people at the right time to enhance safeguarding.

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

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What's Next?

Phase 2

All frontline professionals need to know whether a child has a social worker and we have an NHS Long Term Plan commitment to rollout to all health settings by 2023.

Now that CPP and LAC children have an additional layer of support at unscheduled care settings, we have been investigating who else requires access to CP-IS information. We have been speaking to:

- The National Network of Named GPs for Safeguarding
- The GP IT Futures Programme to ensure CP-IS is included in future primary care contracts
- The Safeguarding Children National Network – Named Practitioners
- Mental Health Services
- Local Authorities to set up a new LA User Group to gather experiences of the system and agree scheduled care alerting
- CHIS Services / School Nurses / Health Visitors to review our existing Covid-19 response to identify if anyone else requires access

If you would like to know more or get involved in our work, please email us at cpis2@nhs.net