



The Public Health Agency (PHA) is a member of the [Safeguarding Board, Northern Ireland \(SBNI\)](#) and is committed to working with other agencies to safeguard children and young people.

Safeguarding children is the process of preventing impairment of children's health and development, and of ensuring they are growing up safely and securely and provided with effective care of which collectively enables them to attain greater success in adulthood. Safeguarding also extends to protecting children from abuse or neglect, when it occurs, including the promotion and protection of children's rights (SBNI 2012).

The PHA participates in [Children and Young People Services Partnership](#) arrangements to achieve the following outcomes for all children and young people as outlined in the Northern Ireland Executive's 10 year strategy, ['Our Children and Young People - Our Pledge'](#)

- Being healthy;
- Enjoying, learning and achieving;
- Living in safety and stability;

- Experience economic and environmental well-being;
- Contributing positively to community and society; and
- Living in a society which respects their rights.

Responsibilities of PHA staff towards children, young people and their families include:

- Promoting the rights of children and young people in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Seeking the views of children and young people and giving these serious consideration when developing and reviewing services;
- Promoting public awareness of the need to safeguard children;
- Supporting prevention and early intervention approaches and strategies that support children, young people and their families;
- Recognising and responding to child care concerns in keeping with [regional child protection policies](#) and procedures using the appropriate [Northern Ireland Health and Social Care \(HSC\) Trusts Gateway Services for Children's Social Work](#);
 - Cooperating with the HSC Board, HSC Trusts and other agencies to promote safe and effective services for children and families, and monitor progress against agreed strategies and action plans.
 - Providing professional advice in relation to the implementation of safeguarding recommendations and strategies in liaison with HSC Board and HSC Trust staff.
 - Promoting regionally consistent high standards of safeguarding practice;
 - Maintaining appropriate levels of professional knowledge and expertise;
 - Adhering to relevant professional codes of conduct.

Public Health Agency Membership of the SBNI

Ms Emily Roberts: Regional Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Young People

[Nursing, Midwifery and AHP representation on SBNI Committees](#)

Regional Safeguarding Children Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Forum

The PHA has established a Regional Safeguarding Children Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professionals Forum for Northern Ireland to support and develop the effective contribution of nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to safeguarding children and young people. This committee is chaired by Mrs Emily Roberts, Safeguarding Children Nurse Consultant, PHA

Regional Inter-Agency Health and Well-being Needs of Looked After Children Group

The PHA facilitates a regional inter-agency group set up to promote the health and well-being of looked after children through evidence based interventions, improved coordination, sharing models of best practice and shaping future services. Emphasis is placed on prevention of poor health outcomes and early intervention initiatives. The group has members from the HSC Board, PHA, HSC Trusts and Voluntary Sector as well as representatives from the University of Ulster, Queens University Belfast and the Clinical Education Centre. Further information is available from emily.roberts@hscni.net or maurice.meehan@hscni.net

Regional Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professional Policy, Procedures and Guidance

The PHA supports the implementation of regionally consistent safeguarding children practice that is underpinned by agreed policies, procedures and standards:

- [Reflective Supervision - Safeguarding Children Report](#)
- [Regional Guidelines for Nurses and Midwives when sharing information with the Childrens Court Guardian Age](#)
- [Adoption Reports Guidance for Public Health Nurses in Northern Ireland June 2013](#)
- [LAC Regional Guidance March 2014 V1 Final](#)
- [regional guidance for the transfer of specialist community public health nursing child health records when a child is being adopted V3 March 2016](#)
- [multi-agency-practice-guidelines-on-female-genital-mutilation](#)
- [SBNI Core Group Regional Policy and Procedures V1](#)
- [Regional guidance Recording of Nursing Midwifery AHP Observarions Interactions](#)
- [Revised Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy July 2016 V2](#)

- [Sexual Health Toolkit for Foster Carers and HSC staff Web Version](#)
- [Sexual Health Toolkit A4 version](#)
- [Regional Guidance on Refusal to Engage Dec 2020 FINAL](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Learning and Development Guidance for Nurses Midwives and AHPs 2022](#)
- [Nursing Midwifery and AHP Legal Guidance Revised April 2023](#)
- [Final Cross Jurisdiction Guidance for SCPHN and Family Nurses](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Summary Transfer Template Word Version](#)
- [Women who do not present or present late for antenatal care - HSC staff guidance](#)
- [Breastfeeding Guidelines - Supporting Breastfeeding 2024](#)
- [Expressing, Storage and Transportation of Breastmilk 2024 \[A5 leaflet\]](#)
- [Additional information for the caregiver of a Breastmilk Fed Baby 2024 \[A5 document\]](#)
- [UNICEF Assessment of breastmilk expression 2024](#)
- [Regional Guidance re Non Therapeutic Male Circumcision 2024](#)

Safer sleeping resources

It is recognised that consistent messages about safer sleeping should be provided regularly both in the antenatal period and postnatally. The Public Health Agency, in consultation with practitioners from the key disciplines across all five HSCTs, have developed two new resources to assist practitioners in “having the conversation as opposed to just delivering the message.” The resources include a Parent Information Card and a Risk Assessment Tool for professionals. A brief guidance document to support practitioners in the use of the resources is also included.

- [Promoting Safe Sleeping for Infants Guidance Revised 2022](#)
- [Reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death A checklist for Professionals](#)
- [Safer sleeping information for parents](#)

For useful links please click here - [Useful links](#)

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