

6.2.10 NHS England issues guidance on safeguarding directed. They published a safeguarding accountability and assurance framework in March 2013, and this was updated in August 2019.¹⁴⁰ The 2019 requirements included the following:

- (a) It was the responsibility of every NHS body and every professional working within the NHS to ensure that the principles and duties of safeguarding children [and adults] *“are holistically, consistently and conscientiously applied”*;
- (b) Every NHS body should ensure that there is sufficient capacity to fulfil their statutory duties;
- (c) Safeguarding arrangements should be regularly reviewed;
- (d) While checks should be made with the Disclosure and Barring Service on all people entering the NHS workforce, *“it is only a snapshot of intelligence known at the time of the check. A DBS check does not guarantee that the employee does not pose a risk.”*;
- (e) Attention was drawn to the duty of candour in relation to safeguarding incidents;
- (f) Information must be shared to protect children and to prevent or detect crime;
- (g) Where it is considered a member of staff poses a risk to children or might have committed a criminal offence against one or more children information must be shared with the Local Authority Designated Officer;
- (h) Safe recruitment practices and arrangements for dealing with allegations against staff;
- (i) An executive lead for safeguarding children;
- (j) A suite of safeguarding policies and procedures;
- (k) Effective safeguarding supervision arrangements for staff;
- (l) *“developing an organisational culture where all staff are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and information sharing”*;
- (m) *“developing and promoting a learning culture to ensure continuous improvement”*.

I have no reason to believe that the 2013 edition did not contain similar requirements.

¹⁴⁰ NHS England, NHS Improvement, *Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk in the NHS: Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework*, March 2013, PAR 000392 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/safeguarding-children-young-people-adults-at-risk-saaf.pdf> [downloaded 16 May 2024]. I have been unable so far to access the 2013 edition