

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board
Omega House
112 Southampton Road,
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Hampshire
SO50 5PB

Optometry Practice Manager and Safeguarding Lead

Dear colleague

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as your ICB safeguarding team. From July 2022, the responsibility for commissioning, pharmacy, optometry, and dental services has been delegated from NHS England to ICBs. As NHS England retain accountability for the commissioning and quality of these services, we have been working together across the region to consider how best to support you in safeguarding your patients.

We know that you and your regulator take your safeguarding responsibilities seriously. Safeguarding benchmarking tools have successfully been used for a number of years across NHS and private services, usually as an annual self-assessment audit to note good practice and identify where improvements could be made. This is then followed by action planning to achieve any desired change. Similar tools have been successfully used with dental, pharmacy and optometry services in the NHSE Midlands region. We want to ensure that you have access to a relevant current tool to support your practice and have developed the attached tool in consultation with providers.

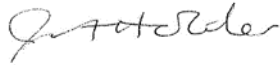
If you do not currently have a similar mechanism in place, we ask that you consider starting to use the tool. There is no requirement to return the tool to NHSE or the ICB but you may find it beneficial to share it when working with your regulator.

We will audit how useful the tool has been to your practice via a very short questionnaire later in 2024-25.

Please see attached contact list for the ICB safeguarding team. Should you have any questions about safeguarding your patients and their families, do not hesitate to contact the appropriate member of our team for advice.

We hope that this introduction letter has provided you with an understanding of our commitment to supporting you in safeguarding and we look forward to continuing to build a relationship with you.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Director – Safeguarding and Looked after Children

Enclosures:

ICB safeguarding contact list – for internal use only

Safeguarding benchmarking toolkit