Frequently asked questions for adult and child safeguarding

*Why has the safeguarding requirements changed?*

Intercollegiate documents and the RCGP supplementary guidance, which has had four-nation approval, have recently been updated and published. In addition several GP practices have been criticised during CQC inspections for their GP trainees not being up to date with both level 3 adult and children safeguarding. The previous guidance on safeguarding for GP trainees was vague as to when this needed to be done and many trainees were not completing this until the end of training. There was also no requirement for adult safeguarding during GP training.

*Do I have to complete the requirements as detailed in the Intercollegiate documents?*

You need to be aware of these documents but they are based on a certain number of hours, which need to be completed. The RCGP curriculum and its assessment requirements will need you to document your understanding and experiences in adult and child safeguarding but not the amount of time it has taken you do this.

*What are the minimum requirements?*

You need to have demonstrated some form of knowledge update in your ePortfolio annually and a reflective log entry on both adult and child safeguarding.

*How do I demonstrate my knowledge?*

This can be done through elearning, attending local workshops, looking at the RCGP toolkits. There is a list of activities on the RCGP website as to how this can be done. For example attending a single workshop if it covered both adult and child safeguarding would be sufficient to cover both areas. The knowledge update needs to be done early in each training year and not left until the end.

*Do adult safeguarding modules at level 3 exist as I haven’t been able to find one?*

Trainees need to be compliant in adult safeguarding at level 3, but as this it is recognised that these are not yet widely available. The knowledge of adult safeguarding can still be done through local workshops/ courses /reading and any encounters with patients where safeguarding has been a concern.

*If I haven’t been directly involved in a safeguarding case, how do I write a reflective entry?*

It is recognised that not every trainee will be directly involved in clinical cases on safeguarding, but this can be achieved through attending local safeguarding meetings, group discussions, webinars, reading about cases for example.

*I am in ST1 but I don't have a GP placement during this time, do I have to complete the child safeguarding requirements?*

If you have placements, which involve children for example Paediatrics, Accident and Emergency, Primary care, Child Psychiatry etc then you will need to have completed the child safeguarding requirements and demonstrated these in your Portfolio. If your placements for that year do not involve children then you would not be expected to include this in your Portfolio although it is felt to be good practice to have an understanding about child safeguarding irrespective of your posts.

*I am in ST1 but I don't do Primary Care until my last post in ST1. The requirements state that I need to demonstrate my knowledge in child safeguarding early in the training year but does this apply to me?*

Ideally you should learn about safeguarding requirements as soon as possible but as above you wouldn't need to demonstrate your understanding in safeguarding until you started a post which involved children, so although you wouldn't be doing this at the beginning of your ST1 time, it would need to be done at the start of your Primary care post and not left until it was nearly over.

*I completed adult and child safeguarding in my foundation post, do I need to do it again?*

Yes the requirements are for a knowledge update in each year of training ST1/2/3 and a reflective entry for both adult and child safeguarding.