



CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION SHARING

Project fact sheet

Care settings to use CP-IS

- Emergency departments
- Out of hours GP services
- Walk-in centres
- Paediatric wards
- Maternity wards
- Minor injury units
- Ambulance services

Cost

The project will cost £6.78million to deliver over a five year period, but by enabling early intervention and better outcomes for children, CP-IS will contribute to a reduction in the costs of dealing with abuse and neglect that is much greater than the initial investment.

It was estimated in 1996 that the annual cost of dealing with the intervention and consequences of child abuse and neglect was approximately £735 million.

Childhood Matters
Lord Williams of Mostyn



Delivering better protection for children

The Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) project is an NHS England sponsored work programme dedicated to developing an information sharing solution that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings.

It proposes to do so by connecting local authorities' child protection social care IT systems with those used by staff in NHS unscheduled care settings. The information sharing focuses on three specific categories of child:

- Those with a **child protection plan** 42,900*
- Those with **looked after child** status (children with full and interim care orders and voluntary care agreements) 59,470*
- Pregnant women whose unborn child has a **prebirth child protection plan** 880*

How CP-IS can make a difference

- Improve the assessment of children presenting in unscheduled care settings through access to better supporting information
- Make information about children who the local authority have responsibility for available for children from out of the area
- Deliver more focused communication between social care and health concerning these groups of children
- Improve intervention to prevent the ongoing abuse or neglect of a child.
- Save time (health and local authority teams will no longer have to produce lists or enter data manually).

Sharing at a national level

Although both manual and IT solutions have been, and are still being, developed to share this information between health and social care at a local level, they are geographically limited because they do not

capture the movement of children across local authority boundaries.

Serious case reviews have demonstrated that children living in abusive and neglectful home environments are more likely to be moved across different local authority boundaries, yet most child protection information is only held locally in the area where the child lives and is not shared nationally. This means that healthcare practitioners often lack access to the information that could help them to form a clear assessment of a child's risk.

This has been a long-standing problem for the NHS, but one that CP-IS aims to address. A national solution will allow healthcare staff to see whether the child requiring treatment has a child protection plan in place, or has looked after child status, regardless of where in England they normally live.

It will also allow social care teams to see when and where the children under their care are receiving unscheduled medical treatment.

*Figures as at 31 March 2012

"The Report of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum published in July 2012 highlighted that professionals working in different care settings need to communicate better with one another on child protection issues, and highlighted the proposed CP-IS solution as an encouraging move towards ensuring that clinical professionals have immediate access to important child protection information."

"This solution is a positive step and an important part of the overall solution. The college has been involved with CP-IS from an early stage and will continue to work with the Department of Health to ensure it is introduced effectively, integrates well with the working practices of NHS staff and makes a genuine contribution to improving child protection practice."

Dr Amanda Thomas - Officer for Child Protection at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

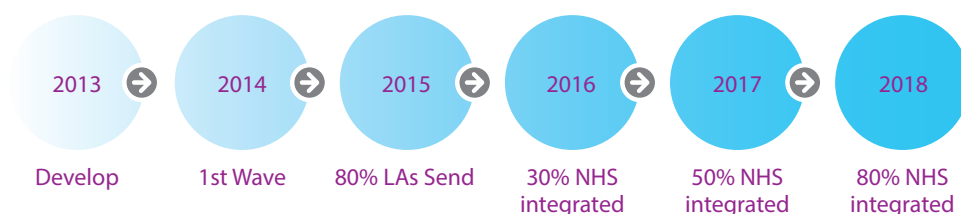
How the solution is being delivered

The project will take a minimal change approach by building upon the existing NHS IT infrastructure. CP-IS will be delivered by making upgrades and changes to current systems (rather than developing a new system from scratch).

A range of local authority IT care system suppliers will make changes to their current systems so that they are able to send a specific set of child protection data to the NHS Spine (the technological infrastructure that supports the sharing of information across the NHS). NHS unscheduled and urgent care settings can then view the information via a web browser, or make changes to their local IT to integrate CP-IS into their patient administration system, electronic patient record or other local system so that it is able to pick up child protection information automatically from the secure central data store.

Timescales

It is expected that most local authorities will be providing child protection data to the central data store by 2015. The NHS unscheduled care settings will then need to make the required changes to their local IT systems so that they can access the child protection data. During 2014, the solution will be rolled-out to the 'first wave' of local authorities and NHS sites in: North East London, North West England, Wakefield and North Tyneside. By early 2015 the majority of local authorities will be connected and able to make their information available to the NHS. By 2018, integration of 80% of 1200+ unscheduled care settings is expected.



How CP-IS will work in practice

The data will be accessed via a safe, electronic system, and only those health professionals with a NHS Smartcard and the correct level of permissions will be able to see it.

The demographics details of all adults and children are looked up as standard during the registration process at NHS unscheduled care settings. At this point, if an organisation has implemented the CP-IS solution an indicator flag will automatically appear on the screen if the registering child has a child protection plan in place or has looked after child status. This will happen as soon as basic, routinely requested information is entered into the local IT system.

The system will automatically retain a record of who has accessed the child's details, when and from where, and this can be viewed by health professionals.

In addition, the same access information will be automatically sent to the Local Authority that has a responsibility for the child. This will help to highlight the children who have a child protection plan or are looked after who are visiting different healthcare settings over a short period of time, which could be an indicator of continued abuse or neglect.

Neither the contents of the child protection plan nor detailed information about the child's looked after status will be made available to the NHS. Similarly, information about when and where a child has received unscheduled medical care will be shared with social care, but not clinical information (such as the reason for the child's visit and the treatment they received).

Find out more

Email: cpis@hscic.gov.uk

Visit: <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/cpis>

The following information is made available to the NHS:

- NHS Number
- Local authority name
- Local authority code
- Local authority emergency duty team telephone number
- Local authority office hours telephone number
- Child protection plan start date
- Child protection plan end date
- Looked after child start date
- Looked after child end date
- Unborn child protection plan start date
- Unborn child protection plan end date

The following information is generated and returned to both local authorities and the NHS:

- Query date and time
- Name and role of health professional who made the query
- Name of organisation where the child's record was viewed

Organisations consulted & offering support:

- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Royal College of Emergency Medicine
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Midwives
- Association of Directors for Child Services
- Department for Education
- NSPCC



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"I am thrilled that, after a lot of planning, CP-IS will soon be available to improve the assessment and care of children who have a Child Protection Plan or are a Looked After Child when they visit unscheduled different healthcare settings. Not having prompt access to the details of the local authority responsible for such a child has been a long-standing problem for the NHS. This is a particular issue for localities where children receive healthcare across local authority boundaries and any local solutions have resulted in a very incomplete picture. What CP-IS does for the first time is share such information between health and local authorities at a national level."

Dr David Low - Consultant Paediatrician and Benefits Realisation Manager for the project