

Meet the Central Safeguarding Team

Philip Winterbottom – Group Head of Safeguarding and Protection



After starting as a Healthcare Assistant in acute admissions in 2003 then qualifying as a Mental Health Nurse in 2007 from the University of Surrey, Phil worked as a nurse and manager for many years in various mental health and social care settings including acute, eating disorders, addictions and managing supported living services including forensic step-down. In the last few years Phil has held safeguarding roles from service level, to regional, through to UK-wide.

Phil is the Chair of the Independent Health Providers Safeguarding Forum (IHPSF), Vice-Chair of the NHS England Safeguarding Adults National Network (SANN) and sits on the Steering Committee for the Royal College of Nursing Nurses in Management and Leadership Forum. Phil also teaches to MSc students as an Honorary Fellow of the university where he completed a MSc in Child Protection and Safeguarding Adults.

Phil works closely with colleagues across the country, commissioners and NHS England in various networks, including representing the independent sector in different national Clinical Reference Groups and Expert Reference Groups alongside NHSE, the DHSC, CQC and Royal Colleges.

Phil said: *"I'm honoured to be leading such a motivated and caring team, we are privileged to care for and support our service users and safeguarding is one of the golden threads of safety that should run through the whole organisation. Safeguarding, when it's done well, isn't just everyone's business, it's everyday business. We're here to help everyone make that happen."*

Meet the Central Safeguarding Team

Summer Drakes – National Named Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, Children (including Looked after Children)



Summer trained as a Registered Mental Health Nurse, and during her student years experienced working within rehabilitation, medium and high secure services, upon qualifying Summer worked within the NHS for 2 years within acute and PICU services. Summer then spent 4 years working within the independent sector as a Clinical Lead and Deputy Ward Manager over the following service lines; Eating Disorder, Addictions, CAMHS (acute and HDU) and PICU. During this time, Summer also held the position of Hospital Safeguarding Lead for the 72 bedded site and supported other Leads regionally.

Summer then worked as a Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) in the community, before being employed in specialist safeguarding positions within mental health services for 4 years, where she spent time working within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Channel Panel for Prevent concerns and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Describing why safeguarding is important to her, Summer says, *"I am and will continue to be in awe of how resilient the individuals we care for are, and the lengths they have gone to in order to protect their mind, body and loved ones from harm. My focus is on ensuring the voice of the individual, be that an adult or child, is ever present in everything we do"*

Meet the Central Safeguarding Team

Paula Tappenden - Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults and Children and Principle Social Worker



Paula worked with young adults within a residential care setting prior to returning to university to study Social Work in 2013. As a student she was keen to work within the field of mental health, having placements within a forensic residential service and an "Early Intervention in Psychosis" Team. After graduation in 2016, Paula worked within a local authority as a generic adult social worker and then within a CAMHS PICU service; with both roles further developing her interest in mental health and safeguarding.

Following her move to a specialist community forensic mental health team, Paula supported service users who were on a discharge pathway from hospital under Part 3 of the Mental Health Act. Paula then supported those service users to remain in the community as their Social Supervisor. During her time with this service Paula also trained and worked as an Approved Mental Health Professional.

Paula joined Cygnet Hospital Maidstone in early 2023 as Head of Social Work and Safeguarding Lead. In 2024 she was awarded Cygnet's "Leadership in Social Work" Award and she is now on secondment to the Central Safeguarding Team, covering a colleague's extended leave.

Paula said "I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to empower, care and protect service users within the Cygnet Central Safeguarding Team. I am committed to bringing my site level experience, both as a social worker and safeguarding lead, to support in any way I can".

Meet the Central Safeguarding Team

Bernadette Robinson – Divisional Safeguarding and Protection Lead (Social Care)



Bernadette has over 20 years experience of working in Adult Social Care, having qualified as a Social Worker in 2002. After five years she became a Team Manager, managing teams of practitioners working with adults with a range of care and support needs.

She has recently spent two years in a Safeguarding Support Manager role within social housing, providing Safeguarding practice guidance and advice across the organization and developing training, policy and procedure. This included care homes and supported living services as well as general needs housing.

"I have worked in and around Safeguarding for many years, supporting practitioners to negotiate some very complex situations. This has been particularly the case where people are not able to make choices and decisions for themselves. I am passionate about supporting people to live safely, whilst being empowered to have as much choice and control over their lives as they possibly can".

Meet the Central Safeguarding Team

Mark Garbett – Central Safeguarding Team Administrator



Mark is the Central Safeguarding Team Administrator. He supports the team with a wide number of activities and is the first point of contact through the safeguarding inbox. Mark has worked within the public and private sectors for over 25 years. He has experience in all aspects of information technology and has a keen interest in data processing and report production.

Ways you can contact the Safeguarding Team

Please contact the Central Safeguarding Team via the teams email:

Centralsafeguardingteam@cygnethealth.co.uk.

Visit the Cygnnet Safeguarding Intranet page:

<https://www.cygnethealth.co.uk/about/safeguarding/>

Please note, the Central Safeguarding Team working hours align with our safeguarding partners across the sector and are:

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm.