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| *Document name: Primary Eyecare [North Yorkshire & Humber] Ltd: Safeguarding Policy*  *Date created: January 2014*  *Author:*  *Approved by:* |

**Primary Eyecare [North Yorkshire & Humber] Ltd:**

**Safeguarding Policy**

**Overview**

Primary Eyecare [North Yorkshire & Humber] Ltd (“the Company”) has been established to specifically act as the lead for a network of local optical practices (“subcontractors”) dedicated to delivering excellent eyecare in the local community.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is an overriding professional duty for registered optical practitioners and practices, in the same way as for all other health and social care practitioners and providers.

The Company is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and supports the objective in the Mandate from the Government to NHS England for April 2013 to March 2015 to improve safeguarding practice in the NHS for both children and vulnerable adults. The Company also supports the safeguarding agenda in the context of tackling health inequalities.

The Company will comply with local Safeguarding Policies including any updates required in line with multi-agency policies and the Commissioner’s safeguarding requirements.

**Safeguarding governance**

The Company will appoint a named clinical governance and performance lead who will act as the Company’s safeguarding and prevent lead. The Commissioner will be kept informed at all times of the identity of the safeguarding and prevent Lead.

The Company will support the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs).  The Company understands the key role of LSCBs and SABs in highlighting required improvements with regards safeguarding and will act accordingly as necessary.

The Company will participate in the development of any local multi-agency safeguarding quality indicators and/or plan if requested by the coordinating commissioner.

At the reasonable written request of the commissioner the Company will provide evidence to the commissioner no later than ten days from request confirming that it is addressing any concerns raised by relevant multi-agency reporting systems.

**Subcontractor requirements**

The Company requires subcontractors to:

* Maintain their own Safeguarding Policies in accordance with Optical Confederation and local guidance and ensure that all staff are familiar with the guidance and know what to do if they suspect and observe signs or symptoms of suspected abuse or neglect.

Optical Confederation safeguarding guidance: <http://www.opticalconfederation.org.uk/downloads/guidance/Optical%20Confederation%20-%20Guidance%20on%20Safeguarding%20Children%20and%20Vulnerable%20Adults.pdf>

* Appoint a safeguarding and prevent lead.
* Comply with local safeguarding policies including any updates required in line with multi-agency policies and the commissioner’s safeguarding requirements.
* Ensure all optometrists are aware of and adhere to the relevant College of Optometrist guidelines.
* Ensure each accredited practitioner has completed DOCET learning for ‘Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults’ (funded by the Department of Health via the College of Optometrist) and submit evidence to the Company.

The Company’s Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually from commencement date January 2014 and amended in order to comply with evolving local multi-agency policies and commissioner safeguarding requirements.