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Chief Executives and CC Ex DoN HSC
Trusts, HSCB, PHA, RQIA, IHCP, NIASP,
Four Seasons Healthcare and NIMDTA
Heads of School Ulster and QUB
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Dear Colleagues

Following agreement of Central Nursing and Midwifery Advisory group Circular, CNO 02/2019 “**Safeguarding Adults: A Core Competency Framework for Nurses and Midwives**” has been finalised for issue. I am grateful to NIPEC and the working group for completing this important framework.

The purpose of this Circular is to address key responsibilities within the role of nurses and midwives in adult safeguarding and advise that this framework must now be used by the nursing and midwifery workforce as an important addition to a range of tools for best practice which include *The Code* (NMC, 2015), *Enabling Professionalism* (NMC, 2017), *Adult Safeguarding; Prevention and Protection in Partnership* (DHSSPSNI & DoJNI, 2015).

Yours sincerely



**Charlotte McArdle
Chief Nursing Officer**

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Dear Colleagues

‘Safeguarding Adults: A Core Competency Framework for Nurses and Midwives’

This circular is to inform organisations and their staff that **‘Safeguarding Adults: A Core Competency Framework for Nurses and Midwives’** is now complete and should be used by all nurses and midwives with immediate effect.

Adult Safeguarding; Prevention and Protection in Partnership (DHSSPSNI & DoJNI, 2015) highlights the importance of prevention in relation to the safeguarding continuum.

While adult safeguarding is everybody’s business and should be a core aspect of all professional practice, the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) recognises that no single person or professional group can possibly address this complex issue in isolation. NIASP continues to promote the importance of positive partnership working across professional boundaries, with service users, patients and their families/carers to achieve the best possible outcomes for the victims/potential

victims of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation. It is therefore the responsibility of all staff within health and social care, irrespective of background, department or sector to be aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to adult safeguarding and, as stated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2015), it should be part of everyday practice for all nurses and midwives.

The work has been led by the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for nursing and midwifery (NIPEC). The work was taken forward through a regional group of representatives drawn from the Public Health Agency, Health and Social Care Board and the Five Health and Social Care Trusts, Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership, Independent health Care Providers, Higher Education Institutes, Clinical Education Centre and the Health and Social Care Board who worked in partnership to produce the framework

Additional copies can be accessed by downloading from the NIPEC website at

http://www.nipec.hscni.net/download/projects/current_work/promote_profdevelopment/adult_safeguarding/documents/Competency-Framework-Final.pdf

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/letter-cno-safeguarding-adults-core-competency-framework-nurses-and-midwives>

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte McArdle
Chief Nursing Officer