

Corporate Parenting Board

7 October 2019

Looked After Health Team, City Hospitals Sunderland

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the activity of the Looked After Health team to Sunderland Corporate Parenting Board.

In this quarter there was an average of 595 children looked after, this has decreased from the previous quarter.

2. Compliance data for health assessments - Quarter 1

Initial Health Assessments

- 2.1** Local Authorities are responsible for making sure a health assessment of physical, emotional and mental health needs is carried out for every child they look after. Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) must happen within 20 working days of the child becoming looked after. In order for the health team to ensure compliance with statutory timescales it is imperative they are advised of the child becoming looked after and consent for health assessments received in a timely manner.

Table 1 – Initial Health Assessments

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Number	58	58
Compliance (target 100%)	93%	92%

- 2.2** Please note figures are not accurate due to the timing of this meeting. 3 appointments could not be offered within timescale due to late notification of becoming looked after from Together for Children.

Review Health Assessments

- 2.3** The RHA must happen at least every six months before a child's 5th birthday and at least once every 12 months after the child's 5th birthday. Table 2 depicts the compliance rate.

Table 2 – Review Health Assessments

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Number	122	166
Compliance (target 100%)	100%	97%

- 2.4 Two young people declined their health assessment and there were some rebooked out of time due to holidays and appointments needing to be changed.

Out of Area Health Assessments

- 2.5 Children placed out of the North East are seen by their local looked after health teams. Their figures will be discussed separately to those seen by Sunderland.

Table 3 – Out of Area health Assessments

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Number	11	3
Compliance (target 100%)	100%	50%

- 2.6 Please note figures are not accurate due to the timing of this meeting. One child was not seen in timescale in July and the data for September is not back yet meaning the average compliance is 50% for July and August.

3.0 Health Passports

Table 3 – Health Passports Issued

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Number	8	5
Compliance	100%	100%

- 3.1 In the 2019 work plan the Health passport will be revised in line with improved joint working between the next steps and looked after health teams.

4.0 Looked After Health Team

- 4.1 From 30th September 2019, a Band 3 administrator has joined the team to fill a vacant position.
- 4.2 Work to align the services between Sunderland and South Tyneside Looked After Health teams has commenced within the South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation trust, to facilitate this Vicky Smith has been recruited to the role of Lead Nurse for Looked after Health, she will join the team from 4th November 2019.

5.0 Developments

- 5.1 In July the Next steps team ran an event around Care leavers and cooking. Sunderland CCG provided £1000 to fund necessities boxes of ingredients to be provided to care leavers to help them cook for themselves once living independently.
- 5.2 A service review identifying the pathways of information sharing for Looked after Children and Young people with Special educational needs, Learning Disability and Education and Health care plans (EHCPs) has been completed.
- 5.3 The annual Quality Assurance audit for Looked After Health Assessments was completed in July 2019. Analysis of the results confirmed the quality of health

assessment reports was of a good and the voice of the child was consistently captured. Areas for development were: discussing transition and having birth parents attend the health assessments. This is in line with the pledge made at the Regional children in care council.

6.0 Recommendations

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the content of the report.

Signed



Dr Sarah Mills

Locum Paediatric Consultant

Designated Doctor for Looked After Children

