

**Looked After Health Team, City Hospitals Sunderland**  
**Report to Corporate Parenting Board**  
**15 July 2020**

**1. Purpose of the report**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:

- Demonstrate our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children looked after
- To assure the corporate parenting board that support and health services to children looked after are provided without undue delay or geographical prejudice
- To demonstrate the aim of the Looked After Health for sustained improvement in the health and wellbeing of children looked after and care leavers
- To assure the child's voice around health issues are included wherever possible
- Report on compliance to statutory targets from the Looked After Health Team, for South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

**COVID 19**

- 1.1. COVID 19 pandemic, resulting in a national lockdown as given us unprecedented times. Within the Looked after health team we had to cease all face to face contact unless clinically necessary, as per national guidance. The guidance directed that all IHA's should be virtual and all RHA's should be ceased. Fortunately due to low levels of redeployment the looked after health team were able to take the decision to continue with RHA's virtually. Carers and CLA have responded well with the virtual assessments though the team have missed the face to face contact with the children and young people.
- 1.2. The team were unable to continue collecting SDQ data over this period and dental assessments have been paused; however the team have continued to collect data around dental health.
- 1.3. Recovery plans are now in place and face to face assessments are resuming for IHA and RHA assessments. A priority will be given to all children and young people who had a virtual IHA to have a face to face assessment before their next health assessment is due, to ensure their growth and wellbeing has been fully assessed.

**2.0 Compliance data for health assessments - Quarter 1**

In Quarter 1 there were, on average, 598 children looked after, this is a slight decrease (16) from the previous quarter. Current rate in Sunderland is 107 per 10,000 Children Looked After<sup>1</sup>. This remains higher than the national average.

**2.1 Initial Health Assessments (IHA)**

- 1.1.1. Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring health assessment of physical, emotional and mental health needs is carried out for every child they look after within 20 working days of becoming looked after.

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<sup>1</sup> Children's services analysis tool, ChAT, April 2019

Table 1 - Initial Health Assessments

	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
<b>Number</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Compliance (target 100%)</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>95%*</b>

\*2 did not have consent so health assessment was delayed until it was obtained.

One child did not attend but had appointment rebooked for the next day so health assessment was not delayed

- 1.1.2. During lockdown regular liaison between the Looked After Health team and Senior managers at Together for Children ensured processes were maintained for information sharing.
- 1.1.3. Numbers for coming into care remained average during the lockdown period and Together for Children offered assurance to the Looked after Health team that they are not predicting a 'surge' in children being brought into care as education and other services resume.

## 2.2 Review Health Assessments (RHA)

- 2.2.1 The RHA must happen at least every six months before a child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and at least once every 12 months after the child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, within the month they became looked after.

Table 2 - Review Health Assessments

	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
<b>Number</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Compliance (target 100%)</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>98%*</b>

\* 2 Health assessments could not be completed, one for medical reasons and one as the young person has joined the Armed forces and will be away during period assessment is due.

- 2.2.2 4 children were not brought/did not attend the booked appointment; they were then offered another appointment within timescale.

## 2.3 Out of Area Health Assessments

- 2.3.1 There are 34 CLA placed outside of the North East. 1 is in a secure unit.
- 2.3.2 Sunderland CCG are quality assuring all IHA and RHA for external placements and the Looked After health team are monitoring compliance.

Table 3 – Health assessments performed on behalf of Sunderland for children and young people placed outside of area

	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
<b>Total number</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Compliance (target 100%)</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Number IHA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Compliance IHA (target 100%)</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Number RHA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Compliance RHA (target 100%)</b>	<b>50%*</b>	<b>100%</b>

2.3.3 There is excellent compliance despite the current situation.

### 3 Health Passports

Table 3 - Health Passports Issued

	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
Number	3	10
Compliance	100%	100%

3.1 The Health passport will be revised in line with improved joint working between the next steps, looked after health teams and South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Trust.

### 4. Looked After Health Team

4.1. Work is ongoing to support and improve looked after health services across South Tyneside and Sunderland within the provider sites. The voice of the child is been sought in relation to any changes.

4.2. The Designated nurse role is currently filled under a temporary arrangement. Interviews were held on 1<sup>st</sup> July and a successful candidate was recruited permanently to the role.

### 5. Health Profile Data

5.1. The Health Profile Data (Sunderland Looked After Health team, Data Launchpad) continues to be collected at each health assessment.

5.2 In-depth projects looking at Asthma, Weight, Epilepsy and the health of care leavers have commenced. The reports from these projects will be shared at corporate parenting board once completed.

5.3. Data from the largest group: Behaviour, mental health and lifestyle where issues are recorded (190) are being used to support the redesign of services between commissioners, CNTW and South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Trust.

### 6. Recommendations and Actions

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

**Signed**



**Dr Sarah Mills**

**Paediatric Consultant**

**Designated Doctor for Looked After Health**

