

**CCG Sunderland update**  
**Report to Corporate Parenting Board**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

**1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Demonstrate our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in care
- To assure the corporate parenting board that health services to children in care are provided without undue delay or geographical prejudice
- To demonstrate the aim of the Looked After Health team is for sustained improvement in the health and wellbeing of children in care and those leaving care
- 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

Please note that data reported within this report is Q2 data (July, August, and September).

**1.2 COVID-19**

1.2.1 The health team continue to offer face to face health assessment appointments.

1.2.2 The health team have not had any staff absences due to covid 19.

1.2.3 The local rates of Covid 19 have continued to impact on appointments, due to isolating carers and young people.

1.2.4 Covid 19 vaccine program is currently being delivered within local schools, at present there is no data with regards to uptake within our cared for population.

1.2.5 PHE have produced a leaflet specifically for young people about the covid 19 vaccination. This has been shared with TFC.

1.2.6 Dental Appointments: The Named Nurse LAH and Designate Nurse Cared For Children meet monthly and any individual issues are discussed and escalated as appropriate. Figures suggest that 2/3 of young people attending their Review Health Assessment have been seen by a dentist for a dental review (the 1/3 not seen also includes those refusing to attend). The LAH Team are adding dental appointments as an issue to the health care plan and asking Carers to contact their dentist. This will hopefully identify any issues in obtaining appointments.

## 2.0 Compliance data for health assessments - Quarter 4

In Quarter 2 there were, on average, 578 cared for children, this is a slight decrease from the previous quarter, but there was an increase in the number of young people becoming cared for comparing to Q1 (+15).

### 2.1 Initial Health Assessments (IHA)

- 2.1.1 Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring a health assessment of physical, emotional, and mental health needs is completed for every child within 20 working days of becoming looked after.

Table 1 - Initial Health Assessments

| Quarter    | Q1  | Q2  | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|-------|
| Number     | 41  | 56  |    |    |       |
| Compliance | 93% | 96% |    |    |       |

\* Compliance not related to appointment availability but to Covid self-isolation, 3 young people were not brought (WNB) and therefore the further appointment was out of timescale.

- The Health Team have been able to demonstrate that they continue to offer appointments within timescales and external factors have impacted on the compliance towards the end of this financial year.
- There was an increase in Initial Health Assessments (IHA) this quarter to the previous by 15, and an additional IHA for an out of area young person living in Sunderland.
- 2 Young People refused their health assessment, and the refusal pathway was followed, and a health care plan produced.

### 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    | Q1  | Q2  | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|-------|
| Number     | 144 | 140 |    |    |       |
| Compliance | 98% | 85% |    |    |       |

\* Compliance not related to LAH team capacity, but children and young people not been brought to their initial appointment.

- The was not brought (WNB) rate for September for 1st apt - 47%. This has been raised with TfC.

## 2.3 Out of Area Health Assessments

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

| Assessment | Q1       | Q2  | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|------------|----------|-----|----|----|-------|
| IHA        | 0        | 4   |    |    |       |
| RHA        | 14 (93%) | 50% |    |    |       |

\*2 health assessment completed out of time scale.

- The 2 assessments out of timescales were due to admin capacity within the LAH team and the requests being sent out late. The vacant post within the team has now been filled.

## 3.0 Health Passports

Table 4 - Health Passports Issued

| Quarter    | Q1  | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|------------|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Number     | 16  | 8  |    |    |       |
| Compliance | 71% | 0% |    |    |       |

- 8 passports were not completed at the point of the Young Persons 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but now completed. They were just out of timescale.
- All 8 young people engaged in their final health assessment and were seen by the LAH team face to face and provided with a final health care plan.

## 4.0 Looked After Health Team

- 4.1 The Looked After Health team continue to be able to meet compliance timeframes with appointment slots.
- 4.2 The admin vacancy has now been filled and the new member of staff is in post.

## 5.0 Service improvements

- 5.1 The development of the Health Passport App is ongoing, and the Designate Nurse is awaiting an invite to receive views and ideas from the Change Council.
- 5.2 The LAH Team are planning to seek the views of our young people about the Review Health Assessment paperwork. The hope is to streamline this and make it more 'young person friendly'.
- 5.3 The Designate Nurse has changed her job title in line with the 'change the language campaign'.

## **6.0 Recommendations and Actions**

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

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**Sunderland CCG**