

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

8 October 2018

HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Report of the 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 630 children looked after, this has increased from the previous quarter. 41 were recorded as being placed outside of the North East, this has reduced slightly.

2. Compliance data for health assessments Quarter 1

- 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 2
Number	52
Compliance (target 100%)	73%

- 2.3** The compliance reduced over the summer because of disruption to the process. A new more efficient system was to be implemented using the placing social worker to notify the looked after health team rather than the CIRT team. Due to a lapsed information sharing agreement notifications were not sent in a timely way during August. The old system was reinstated and the new system will be implemented from 1st October 2018.
- 2.4** One child was not brought to their arranged appointment and there was one health assessment required from a service out of the North East that has not been performed in a timely manner. There is a pathway in place to address this issue.

- 2.5** 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 2
Number	165
Compliance (target 100%)	95%

- 2.5** Non-compliance was due to 7 children not being brought for their arranged appointment. 2 children placed out of the area did not have their health assessments completed on time. This has improved from the previous quarter.

3.0 Health Passports

- 3.1** The pathway for providing Health passports works well.

Table 3 – Health Passports Issued

	Quarter 1
Number	11
Compliance	100%

4.0 Looked After Health Team

- 4.1** Claire Elwell has now been appointed into the role of Named Nurse for Looked After Health. The role of Children and Young People's Nurse has been appointed to and will be filled from December 2018.
- 4.2** Victoria Smith will commence her role as Designated Nurse for Looked After Health from November 2018.

5.0 Developments

- 5.1** The Looked After health team met with Sheila Lough and Martin Birch to discuss improving the consent process. This would allow an improved consent form and leaflet to be used by social workers. The looked after health team are to attend the Management meeting at Together for Children to promote the process.
- 5.2** A leaflet for young people which will explain the health assessments is in development. The text has been produced and the design work will be created to match the 'Commitments' leaflet produced by Together for Children.
- 5.3** Dr Mills, Dr Firth and Claire Elwell met with residential unit managers, Sharon Willis and Liz McManus, Consultant Psychologist to discuss how to build relationships and health support between the residential units and the health team.
- 5.4** Dr Mills, Sheila Lough, Agnes Physic, Looked after lead CYPS and Kelly Haslem, Community CYPS manager met to begin working together on improving the mental health support for looked after children and young people. On the 2nd October 2018 a day long meeting was held by the Looked After Health team looking at 'Addressing

the Mental Health Needs of Children and Young People who are Looked After' speakers from CYPS, CAMHS, Washington MIND, Adoption support team, the virtual school and the participation team attended. The day ended with a collaborative session looking at how to build relationships and better meet the mental health needs of the Children and Young People.

- 5.5** The data collection for health outcomes health assessment has been established. Figures will soon be collated on a regular basis looking at issues such as smoking rates, substance misuse and obesity. The team will also be able to gather information on the services they provide at the health assessment for example performing blood tests, giving immunisations or carrying out sexual health screening. Once an information agreement is established the team look forward to presenting this data to Corporate Parenting Board in the near future.

6.0 Recommendations

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

Signed



Dr Sarah Mills
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Designated Doctor for Looked After Children

27.09.2018

