

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**30 January 2017**

**HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

**Report of Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse**

**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on health Looked After Children (LAC) activity to Sunderland Corporate Parenting Board.

**2. MALAP Health Sub –group**

- 2.1** The MALAP Health Sub-group (MHSG) consists of multi-agency professionals: LAC Service Manager, Independent Reviewing Officer, Fostering Manager, LA Information Manager, Young People Engagement Officer, Children's Home Manager, Service Manager CYPS and a Psychologist from NTW.
- 2.2** The LAC Specialist Nurse for Children and Young People took over the chairing arrangements for the group on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. An updated action plan is in the process of being developed and will be available for the next Corporate Parenting Board.
- 2.3** An annual audit of young people's experiences of the LAC health services is underway the outcome of which will be available for the next Corporate Parenting Board.

**3. Secure Pathway**

- 3.1** The LAC Health Team at City Hospitals Sunderland (CHS) has developed a Secure Health Pathway for young people who require secure and welfare accommodation. The purpose of the pathway is to ensure there is good communication between professionals; the specific health needs of the young person are highlighted and, where necessary, the young person is assessed by a medical practitioner in order to ensure a safe transfer to the placement.

#### 4. Compliance data for health assessments Quarter 3 2016/17

- 4.1 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.

#### 4.2

LAC IHAs	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Compliance IHAs	27%	55%	56%
Compliance OOA IHAs	30%	No OOA IHAs	80%

- 4.3 The service manager in Children's Services is checking new LAC every Friday and has been proactive in encouraging social workers to complete paperwork in time.

- 4.4 The Review Health Assessment (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 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### 4.5

LAC RHAs	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Compliance RHAs	76%	60%	75%
Compliance OOA RHAs	51%	38%	87.5%

- 4.6 There has been some improvement with compliance from quarter 2 due to new initiatives to engage teenagers, such as flexibility with appointment times and venues

- 4.7 Compliance attendance for Exit Health Interviews – **78%**

- 4.8 Compliance with issuing health passports – **88%**

- 4.9 A number of young people are hard to reach and fail to attend RHA appointments which reflects on the compliance for exit health interviews and health passports. A refusal pathway will be formulated by quarter 4 to target the hard to reach young people.

#### 5. LAC Nurse

- 5.1 A new band 6 LAC Nurse has been appointed to the team and will take up her position April/May 2017. This is an additional nursing resource to the LAC Health Team and will allow more flexibility in improving compliance data particularly with the hard to reach children and young people.

## **6.0 Annual Engagement Survey**

- 6.1** The annual engagement survey of children and young people's satisfaction and understanding of LAC health provision started in December; the outcome will be reported at the next Corporate Parenting Board.

## **7.0 CYPS data**

- 7.1** The Designated Nurse and Doctor for LAC held a meeting in January with the Children's Commissioner at Sunderland CCG; NTW; CYPS Manager and Service Manager for LAC to address arrangements for developing a quarterly data set for CYPS information received from NTW:

- Number of LAC open to CYPS
- Number of referrals made to CYPs quarterly
- Source of referral
- Waiting times from referral to assessment
- Waiting times from assessment to treatment
- Type of treatment /service accessed/service pathway
- Numbers of children/young people who do not engage/do not attend following referral
- Duration of episode
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQs)
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Number of discharges from the service

The above information will be filtered into a quarterly score card with a supporting narrative and will be reported to MALAP and Corporate Parenting.

## **8.0 LAC Health Team**

- 8.1** The LAC health team will: -
- continue to support the Local Authority with the Improvement plan in respect of LAC.
  - work towards improving compliance with health assessments and health passports
  - designated LAC professionals and CCG Commissioning Manager will finalise a data set for CYPS with a supporting narrative to present to Corporate Parenting Board.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

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

*Anne M Brock*

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**Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse and Designated Nurse LAC**

*Dr Kim Barrett*

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**Designated Doctor LAC**