

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

9 October 2017

HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

**Report of the Safeguarding Children Lead and the Designated Doctor for
Looked After Children**

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. Compliance data for health assessments June, July and August 2017

- 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.

2.2 Table 1

LAC IHAs	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017
Compliance IHAs	95% (21)	86% (24)	100% (24)

- 2.3 The reason for compliance being at 95% in June was due to a child who was placed out of area not having the health assessment completed within the required timescales.
- 2.4 Compliance was at 86% in July this was due to 1 late notification; 1 delay in receiving consent and 2 out of areas not completed within timescales.
- 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 improved compliance rate.

Table 2

LAC RHAs	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017
Compliance RHAs	88%(36)	92% (60)	92% (47)

2.6 The 88% compliance data for June was due to an administration error where 3 appointments were sent out late; 1 child unable to attend due to behavioural problems and 1 child placed out of area whose health assessment was not completed within timescales

2.7 The 92% compliance data for July was due to 2 non attendances (appointments were sent within timescales); 1 child unable to attend as on holiday and 2 children out of area who did not have assessments completed within timescales.

2.8 The compliance data for August was due to 2 children out of area who did not have assessments completed within timescales, and 1 young person refusing to attend appointment.

3.0 Health Passports

3.1 The improvement activity around issuing of health passports was described in a previous report. Table 3 demonstrates current compliance.

Table 3

Health passports issued	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017
Compliance Health passports	100% (6)	100% (2)	100% (4)

4.0 CYPS

4.1 Due to changes in CYPS reporting to Sunderland CCG the CYPS LAC scorecard is in the process of being redesigned. A member of NTW CYPS team will give a verbal update to Corporate Parents.

4.2 Following the agreement which was reached by North Tyne and Wear NHS Trust and Together for Children, a Consultant Child Psychologist is now providing half day weekly sessions for professionals in the residential children's homes to offer scaffolding, support, guidance and supervision for residential looked after children (LAC) :

- on the waiting list to be seen by CYPS
- who don't have a Mental Health Care Coordinator in CYPS
- not suitable for tier 3 mental health services but advice and support is required to manage behaviours

5.0 Asylum seekers

- 5.1** In the last year, only four asylum seekers young people have been seen by Sunderland LAC health team. However it is likely that, in the future, this number will rise. The LAC health team, genito urinary- medicine, paediatrics and Together for Children are preparing a clinical pathway for asylum seekers to meet their health needs. This will include protocols to address interpreter needs, TB screening, blood borne virus screening (HIV/hep B/C/syphilis) and screening for trauma. It is anticipated that this will be functional by the New Year.

6.0 LAC Health Team

- 6.1** The LAC health team will continue to support the Local Authority with the Improvement Plan in respect of LAC

7.0 Recommendations

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

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