

CCG Sunderland update
Report to Corporate Parenting Board
28th June 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 Q4 data (January, February and March). This is due to the time of this meeting. With an overview of the years data 2020-2021

1.2 COVID-19

- 1.2.1 The health team have recommenced face to face health assessments from April 2021.
- 1.2.2 The team continue to have cancelled appointments due to young people isolating but from recent updates they are managing this well.
- 1.2.3 55% of young people were seen face to face over the pandemic period April 20-March 21
- 1.2.4 The team did gather feedback from young people and there was an overriding preference from them that they preferred to be seen face to face.

2.0 Compliance data for health assessments - Quarter 4

In Quarter 4 there were, on average, 625 cared for children, this is a slight decrease from the previous quarter. Current rate in Sunderland is 106 per 10,000 Children Looked After¹. This remains higher than the national average.

2.1 Initial Health Assessments (IHA)

¹ Children's services analysis tool, ChAT, April 2019

- 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	47	60	61	73	241
Compliance	96%	96%	95%	86%	93%

*unfortunately, 11 initial health assessments were out of timescale in Q4. This was due to a combination of young people of carers having to self-isolate, a surge of young people requiring care close to christmas and missed appointments.

- The Health Team have been able to demonstrate that they have continued to offer appointments within timescales and external factors have impacted on the compliance towards the end of this financial year.
- 224 initial health assessments have met compliance, with only 17 falling outside of this period.
- There has been a steady rise in Initial health assessment requests throughout the year.
- No one has refused their initial health assessment throughout the year period.

2.2 Review Health Assessments (RHA)

- 2.2.1 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 within the month they became looked after.

Table 2 - Review Health Assessments

Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number	135	167	126	185	613
Compliance	100%	99%	98%	99%	99%

*only 1 young person was completed out of time scale in Q4

- The review health assessment requests increased in Q4
- Only 4 young people had their health assessment out of timescale during the year period.
- 11 young people have refused their health assessment over the year period.

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	0	2 (100%)	3 (33%)	5(60% compliant)
RHA	10 (100%)	7(100%)	12(92%)	10(50%)	39(85% compliant)

*7 of the 13 out of area requests were completed outside of their due date in Q4, this was due to capacity of the out of area team and a late notification for the Initial Health Assessments (2).

- 2.3.1 There were 44 requests to out of area providers over the year period. 8 of these were out of time scales.
- 2.3.2 A pathway is now in place for the quality assurance of health assessments, and all out of area assessments are quality assured by the Designate Nurse Sunderland CCG.
- 2.3.3 An audit has been completed to provide assurance that our cared for young people placed outside of the area of Sunderland receive timely, quality health assessments and that unmet needs identified on health action plans are met within timeframes.
- 2.3.4 The nursing staff now share a 'Medical summary' when a child or young person is moved out of area to ensure all health needs can be met in the local area without delay

3.0 Health Passports

Table 4 - Health Passports Issued

Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number	14	12	18	9	53
Compliance	100%	83%	100%	100%	96%

- 3.1 All of our young people are offered a passport at their last health assessment.

4.0 Looked After Health Team

- 4.1 Dr Emma Cadamy is taking on some of Dr Sarah Mills job role whilst she is on maternity leave.
- 4.2 Face to face Initial and Review health assessments have commenced April 2021

5.0 Service improvements

- 5.1 The medical team are completing an in-house audit of health assessments, to identify areas of good practice and improvement.

- 5.2 The Out of Area Health assessment audit; this identified good practice with regards to early notification to the out of area health teams, and the sharing of a 'health update' when a young person moves.
- 5.3 Recommendations included changes to wording within the assessment paperwork, as very little evidence that additional information was gathered from Social Worker, GP etc.
- 5.4 Priorities for 2021-2022 are:
- The LAH team will review the evidence and implement an agreed screening tool to assess children and young people's emotional wellbeing/ mental health at each health assessment.
 - The co-production and engagement of young people in service delivery and transformation and consider other alternative modes of communication with children and young people in completing health assessments.
 - The LAH team will review regional and national best practice in completing health passports in an aligned approach
 - The ACP trainee will be supported throughout the 2nd year. A framework of supervised practice and governance will be developed to enable transition into independent practice once qualified

6.0 Recommendations and Actions

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

Jo Morgan
Designated Nurse Looked After Children
Sunderland CCG