

CCG Sunderland update
Report to Corporate Parenting Board
19th April 2021

1. 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 Q3 data (October, November, December). This is due to the time of this meeting.

1.2. COVID-19

- 1.2.1 Isolating Carers and young people impacted on appointments – with significant numbers having to be cancelled and rearranged.
- 1.2.2 Following the further lockdown restrictions implemented late December the Health Team made the decision to provide telephone health assessments, this was based on risk; distance carers were having to travel, the use of public transport and individual health risks.
- 1.2.3 Virtual platforms have been introduced as an alternative option for young people.
- 1.2.4 Plan to reintroduce face to face assessments in April 21.

2.0 Compliance data for health assessments - Quarter 3

In Quarter 3 there were, on average, 623 cared for children, this is a slight increase (13) from the previous quarter. Current rate in Sunderland is 107 per 10,000 Children Looked After¹. This remains higher than the national average.

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

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 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Number	47	60	61
Compliance (target 100%)	96%	96%	95% (58)

*2 health assessments were out of timescale because of siblings self-isolating. 1 Young person was seen out of timescale because other appointments had priority over health.

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 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3 <i>to date</i>
Number	135	177	126
Compliance (target 100%)	100%	94%	98%

*19 health appointments were missed; the majority were then rebooked within timescale. 1 child was out of time and 6 young people refused their health assessment, so the refusal pathway was followed.

2.2 Out of Area Health Assessments

- 2.3.1 There are 37 cared for children placed outside of the North East. 1 is in a secure unit.
- 2.3.2 A pathway is now in place for the quality assurance of health assessments.
- 2.3.2 The Designated Nurse (LAC) Sunderland CCG are quality assuring all IHA and RHA for children placed out of area.
- 2.3.3 An audit is currently 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.

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

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3 <i>to date</i>
Total number	10	7	14
Total Compliance (target 100%)	100%	100%	96%
Number IHA	0	0	2
Compliance IHA (target 100%)	-	-	100%
Number RHA	10	7	12
Compliance RHA (target 100%)	100%	100%	92%

* one young person missed two appointments and was then seen out of time

- 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. Health Passports

Table 4 - Health Passports Issued

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3 <i>to date</i>
Number	14	12	18
Compliance	100%	100%	100%

4. Looked After Health Team

- 4.1. the signs of safety scaling system are being embedded into the health assessments too align with the TFC sign of safety model.
- 4.2. Dr Sarah Mills will be taking maternity leave from July 2021. There is planning within the team on how Dr Mills workplan will be covered over this period.
- 4.3. Face to face Initial and Review health assessments have commenced April 2021

5. Service improvements

- 5.1. The Health Profile Data (Sunderland Looked After Health Team, Data Launchpad) continues to be collected at each health assessment.

- 5.2 In-depth projects looking at Asthma, Weight, Epilepsy and the health of care leavers have been completed. Recommendations for changes to practice in Asthma and Epilepsy care have been implemented and the outcomes will be re-audited in 2022. 5.3
- 5.3 The Designated Doctor has joined the 'Best start in Life' group within Sunderland Council
- 5.4 A project around obesity is been completed within the medical team, looking at this particular area with our cared for children and resources. An information leaflet about Abnormal eating behaviours in cared for children is being produced to support carers in managing weight gain when children come into care. This is being done in conjunction with CYPS and foster carers will be asked for their opinion on the leaflet before it goes into production.

6. Recommendations and Actions

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

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