

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**3 July 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**

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 March, April and May 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	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017
Compliance IHAs	89%	100%	76%

**2.3** The decline in the compliance data for March was due to the mother of two children refusing to sign the consent forms as she was under the influence of alcohol; the other case was due to a mother refusing to sign consent until she had sought legal advice.

**2.4** Compliance dropped to 76% in May as one young person was missing, 3 children were unable to attend as the parents were in court and wanted to be present at the RHA and one Foster Carer was unable to attend as she had an emergency dental appointment.

- 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 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Table 2 depicts the improved compliance rate.

**Table 2**

LAC RHAs	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017
Compliance RHAs	80%	94%	95%

- 2.6** The March compliance data was due to a child placed out of area not being brought for a health assessment despite 4 appointments being offered. The LAC Nurse addressed this issue with the Social Worker and the LAC Nurse in the area where the child was placed.
- 2.7** The April compliance data was due to three young people not attending on multiple occasions; the LAC Nurse offered alternative appointment times and venues.
- 2.8** In May an out of area health assessment was not completed in timescales, this was outside of the control of Sunderland LAC Health Team and one young person refused to attend for appointment.
- 2.9** The LAC health team have also experienced difficulty in April as the transfer to the new Company meant notifications of Looked after or change of status were delayed. This meant appointments could not always be arranged in timescales. Similar delays were caused by the 'cyber attack' within the NHS, All staff worked very hard to ensure these difficulties were minimised.

### **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	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017
Compliance Health passports	100%	80%	100%

- 3.2** The compliance dropped in March as the young person refused to attend

### **4.0 CYPS**

- 4.1** The scorecard for CYPS is in a separate report
- 4.2** Since the last Corporate Parenting Committee agreement has been reached by North Tyne and Wear NHS Trust (NTW) and Together for Children for CYPS to hold half day weekly sessions to offer scaffolding, support and

guidance for Together for Children practitioners working with children and young people :

- 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 LAC Nurse**

**5.1** A new LAC and Young Peoples nurse was appointed to the LAC Health Team and took up her position in April; this additional resource will allow for increased flexibility with appointments and working and engaging with hard to reach young people.

**5.2** She will also be doing some work in setting up a young persons' User Group which will include LAC; this will help to capture the 'voice of the child'.

## **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

**6.2** Joint training for foster carers about 'Allegations against Foster Carers' continues between Together for Children Sunderland and the LAC health team 3-4 times a year. The training package was re-vamped in response to an increased number of allegations against foster carers, which have produced some lessons to be learned, with videos from actual foster carers included and interactive activities. This has been evaluated well.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

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

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**Nurse and Designated Nurse LAC**

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