

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**10 October 2016**

**HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

**Report of the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children**

**1. Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on health LAC activity to Sunderland Corporate Parenting Board.

**2. MALAP Health Sub –group**

The MALAP Health Sub-group (MHSG) consists of multi-agency professionals: Designated professionals LAC, 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.

**2.1** The group meets bi-monthly to review and take forward LAC health activity via the MALAP Health Sub-group action plan which was developed by the Designated Nurse LAC. The last MHSG met on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**2.2** The health action plan is addressing the following areas of activity (appendix 1):

- Inspection of health premises by young people
- Monitor compliance data for health assessments
- Quality assurance process for health assessments of children placed externally
- Audit cycle for health assessments
- Annual audit of young people's experiences of the LAC health service to inform future provision
- Monitoring compliance of health passports improvement plan
- Review LAC CYPS data including referral to treatment.

**2.3** The Designated Doctor for LAC has produced an information leaflet for Foster Carers outlining the role of Sunderland LAC health team, based at the Children's Centre and the expectations of Foster Carers in bringing children and young people to their health appointments. The leaflet has been approved by the Foster Care Forum and is awaiting sign off from the Leaflets Committee at City Hospitals Sunderland in October. The plan is for the

leaflets to be given to each new Foster Carer for each new LAC at their IHA and will include the predicted appointment for next RHA. The aim is to produce additional leaflets for children and young people about the health assessments.

### **3. Inspection of health premises**

- 3.1** The creation of an adolescent waiting room at the Children's Centre is awaiting inspection by a group of LAC. It is anticipated that this will open late October. This will allow age appropriate health promotion information to be displayed for young people.

### **4. Compliance data for health assessments Quarter 1 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** The review health assessment 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.

- 4.3** Initial health assessments (IHA) compliance for quarter 1 was **29%**  
Compliance figures are low due to the following reasons:

- 47 late notifications from the Local Authority
- 5 appointments were sent out of timescales by the LAC health team.

- 4.4** An escalation procedure is in place with the Local Authority to address late notifications. The issue of some appointments having been sent out late from the LAC health team has been addressed and efficiencies within the team are expected to improve when the LAC nurse takes up her post at the beginning of October.

- 4.5** Review health assessments compliance for quarter 1 including out of area children was **61%**

Compliance figures are low due to several factors:

- 19 children/young people did not attend
- 6 were unable to attend
- 12 not seen within timescales in the placement area
- Clinics were cancelled.

- 4.6** Children placed out of area (25 mile radius) remain out with the control of the Sunderland LAC health team; assessments are requested in a timely way but sometimes are completed out of timescales. In addition to sending out requests in a timely manner the LAC health team can also make additional

requests by phoning the LAC team in the area in which the child is placed but can't influence the timing of the assessments.

**4.7** In quarter one 12 children/young people requiring health assessments were placed out of area. In an attempt to improve compliance the LAC health team send out of area requests for health assessments 3 months in advance.

**4.8** Very few clinics are cancelled but when they have been this is due to a LAC Doctor having to prioritise adoption medicals. An adoption medical clinic has now been set up to avoid this problem in the future.

**4.9** During quarter one there were no LAC from other local authorities who required health assessments.

## **5. Audit**

**5.1** Children and young people who are placed out of area have their health assessments undertaken by the LAC health team in the area in which the child is placed. The external trust invoice Sunderland CCG for payment on completion of the health assessment. In line with Payments by Result (PBR) an audit tool is used to look at the quality of the health assessment, if the assessment is of poor quality payment can be withheld. During quarter one 7 Sunderland LAC had their health assessments completed externally; the quality of the health assessments were good and invoices have been raised.

## **6.0 Annual Engagement Survey**

**6.1** The annual engagement survey of children and young people's satisfaction and understanding of LAC health provision will start in November.

## **7.0 Health Passports**

**7.1** The Ofsted "deep dive" which was undertaken on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August into LAC and Care Leavers identified a compliance rate of 53% for the issuing of health Passports.

**7.2** Sunderland CCG has requested CHS develop and implement an improvement plan in order to improve compliance; this will be monitored via the CCG Named and Designated Assurance Group and MHSG

**7.3** Preliminary discussions have taken place to explore the feasibility of developing a Health Passport app. The LAC Specialist Nurse will be taking up her appointment on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and will be instrumental in facilitating the exit health interviews and issuing Health Passports

## **8.0 CYPS data**

**8.1** Data provided to SCCG by Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) highlights that in June 9 LAC were referred to CYPS and 86 are currently in treatment which is 15% of the LAC population. Further meetings

will be taking place with NTW as more detailed information is required in respect of data.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

- The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the content of the report.
- The LAC health team will continue to support the Local Authority with the Improvement plan in respect of LAC.
- MHSG monitor LAC action plan.
- The LAC health team will work towards improving compliance with health passports.
- Designated LAC professionals to work with NTW to improve the data reporting in respect of LAC.

*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**

## MALAP Health Sub Group Action Plan 2016/17



**Sunderland  
Clinical Commissioning Group**

No	Actions	Outcome	Lead	Timescale	Progress/evidence	RAG rating
1	To undertake annual survey with young people of the LAC health service in order to gain feedback of their experiences to inform future service provision	User friendly services for children and young people	AB	31/01/17	Audit will take place during November 2016 28/09/16 – 1 <sup>st</sup> planning meeting for engagement survey with CCG Engagement Officer	Amber
2	Young people to review health clinic accommodation at Durham Road annually.	Clinic provision to be suitable for LAC across the age span	AB	30/10/16	Date arranged for October	Amber
3	Monitor compliance of Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) and Review Health Assessments (RHAs) quarterly.	All LAC to have health assessments undertaken within statutory timescales	KB	quarterly	Compliance data for quarter one IHA 29% RHA 61%	Green
4	Consent for IHAs	Consent to be obtained in order that IHAs can be undertaken within 20/7 timescale. Effective escalation process to be in place	SL	31/08/16	Lack of consent for IHAs remains an issue – this to be escalated to October MALAP	RED

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<b>5</b>	Quarterly audit cycle of IHAs, RHAs and Exit health interviews.	CCG to be assured of the quality and timeliness of health assessments	KB	31/12/16	Audit completed June 2016	<b>Amber</b>
<b>6</b>	CHS to implement an improvement plan for assurance that all young people who have an exit health interview receive a health passport. At time of Ofsted 'deep dive' of LAC and care leavers compliance data 53%	100% of young people receive a health passport at the exit health interview.	KB	01/11/16		<b>Amber</b>
<b>7</b>	Quality assure health assessments of Sunderland children placed externally	Sunderland children placed externally to have high quality health assessments prior to payments being released.	KB	30/08/16	First audit undertaken July 2016 Health assessments of satisfactory quality. Rag rating audit tool has been developed since first audit undertaken.	<b>Green</b>
<b>8</b>	LAC health assessments/health plan to be available for LAR	To have fully informed LAR assessment	RP	31/12/16		<b>Amber</b>
<b>9</b>	CYPs data to be made available regarding how many children/young people are referred to the service and seen within required timescales; to include waiting times from assessment to treatment.	Assurances that children are seen and commence treatment in a timely manner	AB	30/08/16	Meeting with Head of CYPS NTW and Consultant Psychologist. Information sent quarterly to Commissioning Team – currently 86 LAC accessing CYPS	<b>Green</b>

## MALAP Health Sub Group Action Plan 2016/17

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					(15% LAC population).	
<b>10</b>	Foster carer training to be provided by LAC health team	Foster Carers to understand the health needs of LAC	KB/LA C Nurse	31/03/17	LAC Nurse appointed and will take up her position in October 2016. Once established in role she will take forward foster carer training. NTW deliver package of training to Foster Carers	<b>Amber</b>

