

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 13 July 2015	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Updated Health Action Plan for Looked After Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Barbara Hills, Community Children's Services, Evelina London Childrens Healthcare, Guys & St Thomas Foundation Trust	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee note the updated action plan and the key issues for consideration in delivering the action plan to improve health outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The government's statutory guidelines for promoting the health and wellbeing for looked after children¹ detail the duties of local authorities, CCGs and NHS England in meeting the physical, emotional and mental health needs of looked after children, as follows:
3. The corporate parenting responsibilities of local authorities include having a duty under section 22(3)(a) of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children they look after, including eligible children and those placed for adoption, regardless of whether they are placed in or out of authority or the type of placement. This includes the promotion of the child's physical, emotional and mental health and acting on any early signs of health issues.
4. Staff working with looked-after children who are delivering health services should make sure their systems and processes track and focus on meeting each child's physical, emotional and mental health needs without making them feel different. They should in particular:
 - ensure looked-after children are able to access universal services as well as targeted and specialist services where necessary
 - receive supervision, training, guidance and support.
5. Local authorities, CCGs and NHS England need to reflect the high level of mental health needs amongst looked-after children in their strategic planning of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). They should also plan for effective transition and consider the needs of care leavers.

¹ Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked-after children:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-looked-after-children--2>

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The latest performance indicators for health in Southwark show that improvements are needed across the board in relation to the immunisations, development needs assessments and health assessments. The indicators also show that a high proportion of children and young people aged 5-16 have a high Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score. This is the tool used to measure emotional wellbeing. This indicates we have a high proportion of children and young people with mental health needs.
7. As highlighted in the Designated Doctor's report to the committee in February, challenges remain securing services for vulnerable teenagers whose mental health needs do not meet the higher thresholds of adult services.

Policy implications

8. As well as being a national priority, achieving positive health outcomes are key themes in local strategies. The Children and Young People's Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy prioritise giving children the best start in life, being safe and stable, having choice and control, building more resilient communities, tackling the root causes of ill health and improving outcomes of care for our most vulnerable residents to enabling them to live more independent lives.
9. One of the strategic priorities of the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy is that *children and young people are happy, healthy and enjoying their education*, the strategy recognises the importance of addressing both physical and mental health and wellbeing needs and the impact this has on improving a range of outcomes for children and young people.
10. Common themes in recent Ofsted reports from local authorities that are judged to be good are as follows:
 - Health assessments, dental checks and immunisations are up-to-date
 - Care leavers have access to health records
 - Children placed out-of-borough receive appropriate health services
 - Good partnership arrangements are in place; Health practitioners are based in looked after children services
 - Mental health needs are well understood and supported by CAMHS
 - SDQs completed regularly, as part of the annual health check
 - Improvement plans are in place where required.
11. The last Ofsted inspection in Southwark noted the effective support for the emotional and health needs of children and young people and the need to ensure that young people's health needs are fully addressed in preparation for leaving care, including the consistent provision of summary health plans.
12. At the meeting on the 24 February 2015 the corporate parenting committee requested an updated action plan included in the Designated Doctor's Annual report, this is included in the following. The action plan identifies the following priority areas or improvement:
 - Improve the quality and timeliness of health assessments and reviews.

- Improve communication and exchange of information between the administration teams in health and social care.
- Increase uptake of immunisations.
- Implement the health summary so that all care leavers leave care with their health history.
- Improve take up and recording of SDQs and mental health issues.

Community impact statement

13. The care population is diverse in terms of age, gender and ethnicity and we these protective characteristics are monitored closely to ensure we understand specific health needs and are able to deliver services that address these needs. Delivering services that improve health outcomes can help to build resilience for children and young people to successfully achieve wellbeing and make a positive contribution. Effective performance monitoring and joint working supports these objectives and enables us to identify areas where improvements may need to be made.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Health Action Plan 2014/15

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Barbara Hills, Community Children's Services, Evelina Hospital	
Report Author	Barbara Hills, Community Children's Services, Evelina Hospital	
Version	Final Draft	
Dated	2 July 2015	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	2 July 2015	

APPENDIX 1

Health Action Plan 2014/15

Key Priorities	How	Who responsible	When by	Comments	Update July 2015
1. Continue to improve quality of in-house health assessments	Peer review to be increased to at least every 2 months Supervision to be attended at least every 2 weeks by new staff and monthly by established staff Yearly audit of quality of Health Assessments and Plans	Designated LAC health professionals, Lead community paediatric team Southwark	Jan 15 Jan 15 Oct 15		Peer review in place Supervision established Comprehensive audit completed Mar 15 and . Learning shared.
2. Improve the quality by increasing the percentage of health assessments in house	Triage at Sunshine House of health assessments to ensure most appropriate Health Professional sees LAC in best venue	LAC health and SS admin, designated health professionals	Ongoing	Reduce % done by GPs to < 10%?	To be discussed with CCG
3. Increase the number of children up to date with their health assessments	Improve liaison between health and social care	Service Manager, Community Paediatrics, Evelina & Central Support and Compliance Manager, Southwark Council	April 2015	Increase coverage to 95%	Weekly reports now sent to health from Social Care of reviews required
4. Implement for care leavers the health history summary Update accompanying leaflet	Designated Nurse to share proposed proforma for health history summary with young people	CareLink, Designated Nurse	April 2015		Health history summary pro forma agreed and tested with young people – amendments being made and then ready

Key Priorities	How	Who responsible	When by	Comments	Update July 2015
	Re-write leaflet and liaise with CareLink				to implement
5. Recruit to the medical advisor for adoption role	Training up of staff / reconfigure post to attract applicants.	Clinical Director	April 2015		Consultant now in post
6. Track health care plans and recommendations	Work with Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to track implementation of recommendations	Social Care, Southwark Council Designated Health Professionals	October 15	Includes timeliness of reports	ongoing
7. Improve co-ordination of health care of LAC with most complex health needs.	Identify key workers for children / young people with complex needs – as Lambeth	Designated Doctor and Nurse, Children with disabilities multidisciplinary team.	April 2015		The key worker for children with complex needs is the consultant paediatrician doing the IHA/RHA - this role is shared with the therapist where appropriate
8. Improve information sharing between Health and Children's social care admin services	Revise joint admin processes across health and Social Care Agree information sharing protocol	Service Manager, Community Paediatrics, Central Support and Compliance Manager and Service Support Manager, Southwark Council Strategic Intelligence and Performance Manager, Southwark Council Service Manager, Community Paediatrics	April 2015 October 15		Health Admin processes provided to social care Access to Carefirst reports planned
9. Prompt Health	Monitor time from becoming LAC to	Service Manager, Community	Jan – April 2015		Audit of timeliness of

Key Priorities	How	Who responsible	When by	Comments	Update July 2015
Assessments for newly looked after children and young people	Initial Health Assessment Record reasons for delay	Paediatrics			Initial health Assessments completed is underway.
10. Raise awareness of vulnerability to CSE in health	Incorporate CSE in training within health	Designated Health professionals	Nov 14		All trained in CSE
11. Raise profile of health of looked After children within social care	Re-introduce training on health of LAC to social workers and IROs Attend SW Practice Group peer supervision	Designated Health professionals	April 15		Designated nurse attending all Social care team meetings to update on health issues - once completed will reinstate a weekly drop in for practitioners.
12. Raise profile of health of Looked After children within acute services for children	Agree how to implement induction training and for all paediatric staff at Evelina acute	General Paediatricians and nurses at Evelina London.	July 15		Agreed funding for two new posts in the acute to raise the profile of LAC. Recruitment underway
13. Better recording of statistics in new health care system to be introduced next year	Link up with Carenotes deployment team	Service Manager, Community Paediatrics.	Oct 15		Ongoing New clinical system will commence end Sept 15
14. Accurate immunisation information for LAC	Find the administrative resource to record immunisations completed on RiO Increase the uptake through good data recovery from GPs and reminders where	Service Manager, Community Paediatrics,	Oct 15		Capacity has meant delay in progressing – resource recently identified

Key Priorities	How	Who responsible	When by	Comments	Update July 2015
	there are gaps in the schedule				
15. Improve Co-ordination, efficiency and timeliness of information exchange between health and Social Services	Update admin processes, share information regularly Weekly reports	Service Manager, Community Paediatrics Beryl Fletcher	February 15	Needs regular review and monitoring	Liaison between admin teams improved with exchange of weekly lists of reviews pending. Work needed to receive consent in timely way.
16. Improve uptake and recording of SDQs and mental health issues	SDQs is sent to carers prior to Review Health Assessments by Social services. Pathway for sending SDQs to onward management and recording to be clarified	Service Manager, Community Paediatrics Service Support Manager, Southwark Council, Designated professionals CareLink	February 15		Social Care are taking the lead in ensuring higher take up of SDQs by carers. Health using SDQ when young people seen for health review.