

Appendix B

Corporate Parenting Panel

Six Monthly Update Report April 2011-September 2011

The Children and Young People's Plan Strategic Health Priorities for children in Central Bedfordshire are:

- To ensure the best start in life for children pre-birth to 5 years
- To ensure the best possible health and wellbeing for children aged 5-19 years.

These priorities are underpinned by key indicators to measure progress towards achieving improved outcomes for children of these; four key priorities to improve health for children in Central Bedfordshire have been identified:

- Improve the number of children with a healthy weight
- Develop and integrate services for children and young people with emerging mental health problems and complex health needs
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate
- Improve the health and well being of Looked After Children

This report focuses on the fourth priority – Improve the health and well being of Looked After Children

A multi agency LAC Health group meets on a monthly basis to ensure that progress is made in meeting statutory guidelines for LAC Health and to ensure that action points from a review of LAC Health provision are implemented.

Significant progress has been made in addressing the key areas of concern.

There are 9 priority areas identified for improvement. These are outlined below, giving progress made over the first six months of 2011/12 for each priority.

Progress to date

1. Ensure LAC receive their Initial and review health checks within statutory timeframes

a) Review Assessments

- Figures for those with an annual health assessment are lower than hoped. This may be due to recording issues, (figures will be verified within the next 2 weeks). Should figures still be low after verification, additional resources from both NHS Bedfordshire and Central Bedfordshire Council will be provided to focus on ensuring that the target is met.
- Additional Deputy Team Manager capacity has been provided to ensure that review health assessments are undertaken within timescale.
- NHS LAC coordinator ensuring LAC health reviews are prioritised by Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Area	Description - ALL NIs to be consistent with definition	Target 2010/11	Outturn 2010/11	Target 2011/12	Q1 2011/12
KEY PRIORITY AREAS	Local - Central Beds - % LAC looked after continuously for 12 months and who had annual health assessment during previous 12 months	0	84.7%	85%	77% (End Sept)

KEY PRIORITY AREAS	Local - Central Beds - % LAC looked after continuously for 12 months and who have had teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months	0	87.30%	85%	85% (end Sept)
KEY PRIORITY AREAS	Local - Central Beds - % LAC up to date on immunisations	0	66.30%	TBC	Avail in Q4

b) Initial assessments

- Although not reported nationally, the timescales for initial health assessments (within 20 working days) is a local focus. Both NHS Bedfordshire and Central Bedfordshire Council are developing systems and processes to increase the numbers of children initially assessed within the timeframe.
- Flitwick Health Centre identified as a specific venue for Central Bedfordshire initial assessments
- Monthly report now generated from Central Bedfordshire and SEPT (NHS provider) databases and used as a performance monitoring system for initial review health assessments.

2. Out of area placements

- Process and failsafe procedures for those LAC placed outside of Central Bedfordshire to be clarified at next LAC Health meeting – 10th Oct
- SEPT now quality assure all Out of area assessments

3. Maximizing Health promotion opportunities

A multi-agency operational LAC Health forum has been set up to identify opportunities for health promotion for Looked After Children. The group has overseen the following developments:-

- LAC Health Packs developed for Central Bedfordshire (informed by young people) – ready for distribution.
- A Health Champion (an ex LAC) will focus on supporting LAC – This will include a 6 month placement with Public Health & Brook.
- Scheduled 1:1 and group work from Brook Outreach workers (incl. Chlamydia Screening).
- Audit of Health Plans to ensure quality.
- Training & Workforce Development package being developed for professionals working with LAC.
- Targeted Teenage pregnancy work with vulnerable groups (including Looked After Children).

4. Designated LAC Doctor and Nurse posts

- Designated LAC Nurse now in post who provides support to NHS Bedfordshire commissioners on issues of quality and effectiveness of provision.
- Although funding for designated doctor input has been identified, it has been difficult to find an appropriate clinician to undertake this role. A discrete piece of work to help identify some of the key issues related to designated doctor responsibilities will therefore be commissioned in the short term.

5. Update JSNA for LAC

- NHS Bedfordshire (Public Health) to undertake updated JSNA for LAC as part of the planned refresh of the JSNA, October 2011.

6. Ensure focus on LAC a priority for all services

- NHS services such as Brook (Sexual Health) and Plan B (Drug treatment) now identified LAC lead staff and recording systems.

7. Ensure Public Health lead in place

- Since March 2011 - Muriel Scott, Director of Public Health, NHS Bedfordshire, supported by Emma Dezoete, Public Health Consultant have led on LAC.

8. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for LAC

Joint funded services for LAC currently being redesigned. Will provide:-

- Additional dedicated capacity for LAC.
- Integrated working between Central Bedfordshire and SEPT (Mental Health Service).
- Greater emphasis on early intervention for LAC.
- More flexible delivery.

New CAMHS early intervention, open access service commissioned by NHS Bedfordshire (start October 2011), to focus on vulnerable groups including LAC.

9. Leaving Care

- Health services for those Leaving Care will be reviewed by November to ensure good fit with statutory guidance by November 2011. Any identified gaps will be addressed to incorporate the views of with the Children in Care Council.

Lee Miller
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NHS Bedfordshire

Oct 2011

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