



Central Bedfordshire
Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information No.

Title of Report Looked After Children's Health Progress Report

Meeting Date: 8 November 2012

Responsible Officer(s) Anne Murray, Director of Nursing and Quality
Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

Presented by: Anne Murray, Director of Nursing and Quality

Action Required: The Board is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the progress made in improving Health outcomes for looked after children.

Executive Summary	
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| 1. | This report looks at the specific contribution of Health Services to the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children following the Ofsted inspection of services for Safeguarding and Looked After Children. The progress report is presented to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for comment. |
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Background	
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| 2. | On 29 May 2012 the Board received a report setting out the findings of Central Bedfordshire's Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection in relation to the quality of Health Services for Looked After Children. The Board requested a further report on the progress made in the first six months following the inspection. |
| 3. | This report sets out the actions taken to deal with:
a) the issues which Ofsted requires to be addressed in the six months following inspection;
b) longer term improvement planning. |

Detailed Recommendation		
4.	The Ofsted report identified a number of areas that needed to be tackled. The following sets out the specific areas of improvement identified and the action taken to address them. It should be noted that responsibility for the delivery of the action plan has now passed from NHS Bedfordshire and Luton to the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG). The Ofsted areas for improvement in section 5 below have been changed to reflect this.	
5.	Summary of Action in the six months following the inspection	
	Ofsted areas for improvement	Action taken and impact
	Ensure all LAC have prompt access to appropriate health services which promote good outcomes for them	<p>Changes which have already been implemented include increasing LAC nurse hours to help provide a leaving care service, and pilots of Health Histories to enable young people who are leaving care to have an informative written record of medical information about themselves.</p> <p>The action plan is only part of the work which the BCCG is undertaking to improve the health outcomes for LAC in Central Bedfordshire.</p> <p>The Business Plan will ensure that the service for delivering LAC healthcare will be responsive to the needs of LAC and care leavers and ensure partnership working is strengthened and inclusive.</p> <p>The Designated Doctor is in post and a permanent Designated Nurse has been appointed and will take up post in October/November 2012.</p>
	BCCG should ensure that all care leavers are enabled to access health services and receive a copy of their health histories to ensure they are able to make future life choices	
	BCCG should ensure that all looked after children and young people have access to age appropriate health education and promotion information.	The distribution of Young People (age specific) Health & Wellbeing Information Packs which include a wide range of relevant and age appropriate information has commenced. The packs are distributed to all young people in care either via their designated social

		<p>worker for those young people currently in the care system, or via the Designated Doctor and/or Nurse at their Initial Health Assessment, if entering care. These will be evaluated through the work of the LAC Participation & Engagement Officers, the Children in Care Council and the LAC Health Team.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing Information Packs which include a wide variety of physical and emotional health information have been distributed to all Foster Carers via their Supervising Social Workers. The evaluation and feedback from Foster Carers will inform the future development of these packs and associated future training.</p>
		<p>The health promotion/health improvement work is also underpinned by the Foster Carer training programme that has been set up and is delivered in partnership with the shared Adoption & Fostering Service and South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) provider services. The training programmes include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to maintain and promote good health for children and young people in care • Helping to meet the specific health needs of young people leaving care • How to talk to young people about sex and relationships <p>These training sessions specifically supplement the Health & Wellbeing Information packs previously mentioned. Feedback and evaluations from the training will be collated and monitored through the LAC Health Improvement Group on a quarterly basis.</p>

		Public Health staff have also delivered a similar training session to LAC designated teachers (approximately 80 members of staff) to ensure continuity and consistency of health information and advice.
	BCCG and Central Bedfordshire Council should ensure that the strength and difficulties questionnaire outcomes are reviewed as part of the emotional health and well-being assessment during review assessments.	The strength and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) has been piloted and is now rolling out to be distributed by the social worker to each looked after child.
	BCCG must ensure that all GPs and independent health contractors are aware of their statutory responsibility to Looked After Children.	LAC awareness is included in the Safeguarding Strategy for BCCG for primary care which is currently under review to take into consideration the change to clinical commissioning groups. This includes LAC responsibilities in the training roll out.
6.	<p>Early performance management information indicates improvements:</p> <p>In 2011-12 Central Bedfordshire's uptake of immunisations by LAC who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months was 92.3%, which is an improvement on 2010/11 and is expected to be above the national average when the figures are released later in the year.</p> <p>In 2011-12 dental checks for LAC in Central Bedfordshire were 91.5%, which is an improvement on 2010/11 and is expected to be above the national average when the figures are released later in the year. Some of this improvement is due to new recording systems which are now in place.</p> <p>In 2011-12 Looked After Children who had their annual health assessment during the year (each six months for under-fives) was 87.2% which was up from 84.7% last year.</p>	
Conclusion and next steps		
7.	The next stage of improvement is to focus on longer term service redesign.	
8.	CBC, BBC, SEPT and the LAC Health team have held joint workshops to review the LAC service as a whole and develop a service which meets the CQC and	

	Ofsted standard of Good, as well as ensuring that we provide a service that supports and empowers young people to live and manage a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives.
9.	<p>The first of these workshops focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process Mapping the current health pathway • Identifying Issues • Identifying Solutions • Action planning • Meeting with Young People who were representative of the Children in Care Council to test ideas. <p>Undertaking the process mapping exercise gave all an understanding of the delays in the process, complications and transfer of care.</p>
10.	The focus of the second session was to work with partners from across the health and social care economy to address the gaps identified by the Ofsted and CQC reviews and gain agreement for the foundations of a reviewed model for the LAC services in Bedfordshire. The outcome of the second workshop was to develop a business case, with input from all stakeholders, outlining the reviewed care pathway which will then go through the formal governance route for commissioning. Further work on this business case continues throughout October. Service principles and responsibilities for stakeholders were discussed and further detail will be set out within the business case
11.	The action plan is only part of the work which BCCG is undertaking to improve the health outcomes for LAC in Central Bedfordshire. The Business Plan will ensure that the service for delivering LAC healthcare will be responsive to the needs of LAC and care leavers and ensure partnership working is strengthened and inclusive.

Issues	
Strategy Implications	
12.	This report relates to Priority 1: Improving the Health of Looked After Children in the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Governance & Delivery	
13.	Reports on progress go to BCCG, the Children's Trust Board and to the Programme Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services.

Management Responsibility	
14.	Responsibility for ensuring that action is taken to address the Health related issues raised in the inspection rests with BCCG.

Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Failure to deliver good Health outcomes for Looked After Children	Possible	Significant	Delivery of the action plan and implementation of business case.

Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)
Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection report for Central Bedfordshire	www.ofsted.gov.uk

Presented by Anne Murray