

Report for Central Bedfordshire Corporate Parenting Panel

Report Subtitle: Future Developments from the Annual Report 2014/15

Report Author: Teresa McDonald

Author Job: Title Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

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The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) commission South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) to deliver a service for Looked After Children in Bedfordshire.

A Designated Nurse for Looked Children sits within BCCG. The role of the Designated Professionals is to work in partnership with the provider, SEPT, to ensure that the health needs identified for looked after children and young people leaving care are met. This is achieved through monitoring performance data and quality, influencing contractual and commissioning arrangements.

The following report is an update of the Looked After Children's Annual Report 2014/15 which was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel on 21st September 2015. It will focus on the commitments made within the 2014/15 report providing a brief summary of the developments thus far. A more detailed annual report will be issued for 2015/16 in the early summer of this year.

The following commitments were made within the Annual Report 2014/15

1. To improve overall performance data to meet targets. To ensure Initial Health Assessments are completed within the statutory guidance, this and all data will be monitored within the LAC health group.

- a. The BCCG are working closely with the Local Authority and the LAC Health team within South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) to monitor the timeliness of Health assessments. The LAC strategic Board has requested that all partners provide data on a quarterly basis. The BCCG is in the process of developing a LAC dashboard to process this data. The dashboard will then inform the LAC board in regards to performance and highlight any issues that may need to be escalated in line with the governance structure.

2. Improve the quality and timeliness of Health Assessments for children and young people placed out of area, in order to improve the child/young person's experience of their Health Assessments, including Young People placed in secure units.

- a. The BCCG are working closely with the Local Authority and the LAC Health team within SEPT to improve the timeliness of health assessments. As part of the commissioning arrangements in April 2015 funding was provided for a substantive whole time equivalent nursing post to support the carrying out review health assessment within one hour traveling distance of the Bedfordshire borders.
- b. The Designated Professionals within the CCG have identified a number of GP's and Paediatricians who have expressed an interest in carrying out health assessments for children and young people who are placed in Bedfordshire from other local authorities. This has ensured that any young person placed in Bedfordshire has access to health services in a timely manner.

3. To continue to raise awareness within primary care, for GPs' of Looked After Children through training programs and providing updates in issues relating to LAC

- a. Since the completion of 2014/15 report there have been three further training sessions for GP's. These comprise of approximately 120 GPs and a small number of practice nurses. The training consist of the role and responsibilities of GP's in regards to LAC, private fostering arrangements, registering of unaccompanied asylum seekers at GP surgeries, and how to

identify children and young people who are LAC by using a flagging system within the electronic database.

- b. The Designated Nurse is to deliver a training programme to the 0-19 team (this includes school nurse, health visitors and the immunisation team) within SEPT in regards to what is a private fostering arrangement; this is an issue across Bedfordshire where children in private fostering arrangements and are going unreported.

4. The LAC health group will establish greater links with the LAC Health Improvement Group (HIMP). The focus of the HIMP group will remain operational reporting to the strategic LAC health group both group will meet quarterly.

- a. Following the review of both groups they have now gone through a process of restructuring. The HiMP will now be known as the Promoting the Health & Wellbeing of LAC (PHWLAC) as per National Guidance. All partners and agencies attend this group.
- b. This group reports to the LAC Strategic Health Board which provides a clarity of purpose by developing strategic objectives which include; monitoring the work of the operational group (PHWLAC), monitoring performance data, input and oversight of LAC audits, capturing the voice of the child, emotional wellbeing of the child, and monitor the delivery and effectiveness of LAC training. This information will help inform the strategic direction.

5. To work closely with Children in Care Council (CiCC) to hear the voice of the child so as to ensure we are delivering services to meet the needs of LAC.

- a. A good working relationship has developed between the Designated Nurse, the children in care council and the Participation Officer within Central Bedfordshire. The Designated Nurse within BCCG has worked closely with Stevenage Leisure Ltd (SLL) to provide incentives such as free swimming and seven day gym membership for children and young people who took part in the LAC survey. SLL has agreed to support the CiCC with any future surveys.
- b. The Designated Nurse has been invited to a CiCC event on the 17th February 2016 as representative from health to engage with young people and hear their views of health services

6. *The Designated Nurse is part of the LSCB sub group for the voice of the child which is in the process of planning a voice of the child conference in November 2015.*

- a. The LSCB sub group, the voice of the child, is developing an active participation self-assessment framework with partners in line with our statutory responsibilities and latest supporting guidance. It draws heavily on the 'Hear by Right' self-assessment tool that has been developed by a consortium of 6 leading children and young people agencies. It will provide a framework that will enable organisations, partnerships and directorates to help establish the effectiveness and quality of their approach to development of their active participation policy and practice.
- b. The toolkit is to be sent to all relevant partners who work with children and young people in mid February 2016; the findings will be reported on in the 2015/16 annual report.
- c. The voice of the child conference is provisionally booked for September 28th 2016.

7. *To involve young people to review the Health Passport and its usefulness to them.*

- a. An audit to review the Leaving Care provision offered by the Looked After Children's Service within SEPT. The Audit will review the following areas.
 - To review the quality of information shared with young person which will include health promotion
 - To review the quality and timeliness of the young person health summary
 - To establish if the voice of the child has been captured within the Review Health assessments
 - To review the number of health passports issued
 - To establish how many young people have been offered ongoing support from the Leaving Care service once they have left the care system.
 - To have clear understanding of consent
- b. The audit will be completed in February 2016 a full report of the findings and recommendations will be in the annual report for 2015/16.

8. To explore strategies to engage young care leavers to access advice in regards to health. An option is to develop a text messaging service.

- a. The Designated Nurse has linked in with a project being developed by the School Nursing Service for a text messaging service which will be offered to all young people which will include Looked After Children

9. To establish a closer working relationship with Designated Teachers by working in partnership with the Head teacher of The Virtual School for Central Bedfordshire.

- a. To build on this working relationship with the Designated Teachers to promote the role of the school nurse in regards to LAC and Universal services. The Designated Nurse has also been liaising with the school nursing service to promote this partnership working with the Designated Teachers. This is to ensure young people know how to access services and can be signposted to the appropriate services for them.

10. Health Practitioners to utilise the SDQ and associated information to support Health Assessments thus ensuring a comprehensive holistic assessment.

- a. The SDQ's pathways are due to be updated taking into account transformation project for CAMHS under the new provider East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) and the role of the designated teachers.
- b. The Head Teacher for the virtual schools in January 2016 rolled out a training programme for all the Designated Teachers within Central Bedfordshire on completing the strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ's) for looked after children and young people placed within their schools. The virtual school reported that awareness of SDQs varies in schools, feedback is positive and also identified areas for improvement. For example a number of teachers said that SDQ scores were not being shared during LAC review.

