

Central Bedfordshire Council Looked After Children Annual Report

1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

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Executive Summary

This report describes the achievements, progress and challenges of the Looked After Children (LAC) health service in meeting the health needs of Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) children and young people in care, during the period from 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016. The report provides an update on work and developments for the health of Looked After Children and Care Leavers, and gives an overview of service provision.

The LAC Health Team within South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) co-ordinates all the statutory LAC health assessments for in county and out of county placements for Central Bedfordshire Council children and young people; this includes responsibility for quality assuring LAC Health Assessments. The report will show the performance data from the LAC health team in regards to meeting the strategy requirements for completing health assessments.

The report demonstrates the strength of partnership working across all the CCG, health services, local authorities and public health to meet the needs of LAC.

The results of audits undertaken within 2015-2016 are highlighted within the report, along with the priorities for the service in 2016/17.

Introduction

This annual health report informs on the health aspects for Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Looked After Children (LAC). The Department of Health Statutory Guidance '*Promoting the Health of Looked After Children (2015)*' requires a report on the delivery of service and the progress achieved for the health and wellbeing of children in care.

This report covers the period of 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, but also outlines the current work being undertaken and the strategic aims set out for 2016/17. It will inform partners of the work to improve health outcomes for Looked After Children in CBC, as well as identifying some of the challenges facing the service.

Looked after Children and Young People should expect to have the same opportunities as other children and young people, including being healthy and safe. They should be provided with the opportunities needed to help them move successfully to adulthood. The needs of Looked After Children and Young People vary, but are often complex, and can be met only by a range of services operating collaboratively across different settings.

National Policy and Legislation

Meeting the health needs of Looked After Children in CBC is directed by key policy frameworks that inform Local Authorities (LAs) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to ensure shared responsibility for good outcomes, as outlined below:

- The Children's Act 1989 and 2004
- Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care (DfE 2006)
- Care Matters: Time for Change (DCSF 2007)
- The Child Health Strategy (DH 2009)
- Health Lives, Brighter Futures: the strategy for children and young people's health (2009)

- Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of looked-after children (DCSF and DH 2015)
- Child Health Programme (DH 2009)
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations. Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (2010)
- You're Welcome – Quality criteria for young people friendly health services (DH April 2011)
- Looked after children and young people (NICE public health guidance, Issued 2010, Modified 2013)
- Looked After Children: Knowledge, skills and competencies of health care staff. Intercollegiate Role Framework (May 2012)
- NHS Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2012-13
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DCSF 2015)
- Quality standard for the health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people (NICE April 2013)
- Delivering the health reforms for looked after children: How the new NHS will work from April 2013 (NCB 2013)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Reformed NHS. Accountability and Assurance Framework. NHS Commissioning Board (March 2013)
- Compassion in Practice. Nursing, Midwifery and Care Staff, Our Vision and Strategy. NHS Commissioning Board (December 2012)
- Central Bedfordshire Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-16
- Central Bedfordshire Council, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. March 2015
- Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Strategic Commissioning Plan 2012-15
- The Care Standards Act (2000)
- The Mental Health Act (2007)
- The Children and Young Persons Act (2008)
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (2014) Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Safeguarding Children Board

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) is the lead commissioner for health provider services in Central Bedfordshire. Executive ownership of Looked After Children for BCCG sits with the Director of Nursing and Quality.

BCCG have in post a full time Designated Nurse for LAC, along with a Designated Doctor who has allocated time to undertake this role. The role of Designated Professionals is to work in partnership with the provider, South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT), to ensure that the health needs identified for looked after children are met.

Profile of the Central Bedfordshire Looked After Children Population

The statutory guidance Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children (DfE & DfH March 2015) states that “most children become looked after as a result of abuse and neglect. Although they have many of the same health issues as their peers, the extent of these is often greater because of their past experiences. For example, almost half of children in care have a diagnosable mental health disorder and two-thirds have special educational needs. Delays in

identifying and meeting their emotional well-being and mental health needs can have far reaching effects on all aspects of their lives, including their chances of reaching their potential and leading happy and healthy lives as adults.”

Table 1: Profile of Central Bedfordshire Council’s Looked After Children

	2014		2015		2016		2014/15
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Statistical Neighbour
Total Number of LAC	268	100	274	100	287		254
LAC placed in county	113	42.2	110	40.1	119	41.5%	70.8%
LAC placed out of county	155	57.8	164	59.8	168	58.5%	29.2
LAC placed in Foster Placement (total)	206	76.9	197	71.8	199	69.3	74.8%
LAC placed with Independent Fostering Agency	108	40.3	91	33.2	86	30.0%	-----
LAC placed in Children’s homes, hostels and other residential settings including secure units	32	11.9	25	9.1	31	10.8%	-----
LAC living independently	15	5.6	26	9.4	30	10.5%	-----
LAC placed for adoption, placed with parents or others	15	5.6	26	9.4	27	9.4%	-----
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker (UAS’s)	-	-	-	-	37	12.9%	4%

In 2014/15, there were 18 UAS’s which equated to 6.5% of CBC LAC. However, for 2015/16, this had increased to 37, which equate to 12.9% of the total LAC, showing an overall of 106% increase in the year.

Table 2: Performance Data for LAC in Central Bedfordshire

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Statistical Neighbour Average
Immunisation & Vaccination Performance	87.6%	94%	93.5%	95.9%
Dental Check Performance	95.3%	97.7%	97.0%	80.0%
IHA completed within statutory timescales by %	-----	57.5%	41.2%	-----
RHA Performance	94.7%	97.7%	96.5%	86.3%
SDQ Average Score	14.1	14.2	14.5	14.8

Table 3: IHA Performance 2015/16

Time Band (in working days)	No. Of Children
0-20 days	42
21-30	22
31-40	12
41-50	7
51-60	5
61-70	0
71+	3
No IHA	11
Total	102
% in Timescale	41.2%

Initial Health Assessment (IHA): 42 out of 102 new Looked After Children had their IHA within the statutory requirement of 20 days of becoming Looked After – 41.2%. There is no benchmarking data for this but the figure for 2014-15 was 57.5%, so this is a decline in this area for the last year. The CCG are monitoring this, working with the provider and CBC, where the performance falls below the standard SEPT are required to provide exceptions reports.

The SDQ is a short behavioural screening questionnaire. It has five sections that cover details of emotional difficulties; conduct problems; hyperactivity or inattention; friendship and peer groups; and also positive behaviour, plus an “impact supplement” to assist in the prediction of emotional health problems.

The scoring range for the SDQ is between 0-40. On an individual basis a score of 13 or below is deemed as normal, with a score of 17 and above being a cause of concern (14-16 is borderline). For local authorities, their overall average score will give an indication of the level of “concern” there is across the service. From a strategic perspective, a high score will indicate that more looked after children are displaying difficulties.

All LAC children who should have had an SDQ completed within the year did so; the average score has risen by 0.3 since 2014/15 and remains above the national average. The score is used to inform the review health assessment carried out by the LAC nurses and will ensure that young people are signposted to the most relevant service. Following training provided by the Head of the Virtual Schools Designated teachers will now be completing SDQ’s in schools from September 2016. Scores can then be triangulated to get a greater understand of the health and wellbeing of LAC.

The percentage of children who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA), teeth checked and all their immunisations up to date has all dropped marginally since the previous year, however in comparison with 2014/15 benchmarking data, as a CCG we are still performing well.

Partnership working

The importance of the health of children and young people in care cannot be underestimated. The LAC Health Team take every opportunity to support children and young people in care by signposting them to the appropriate health care. The health of looked after children is everyone's responsibility, so partnership working is essential to ensure optimum health for each individual child and young person. There is evidence of good partnership working between the LA and Health services.

The Designated Nurse for LAC represents the CCG on the Resource Panel which meets weekly. This is a panel in CBC's children's services which makes key decisions in relation to the children and young people. These decisions include:

- Significant packages of support
- Instigating care proceedings
- Children coming into care

The Designated Nurse is also an active member of the corporate parenting operations group which meets quarterly:

- To resolve system and operational issues that hinder care leavers successful transition to independence and early adulthood
- To commit resources to support looked after children and care leavers in the implementation of their Care Plan and Pathway Plan respectively and to look to use existing resources effectively
- To take steps to ensure effective cooperation/collaboration is embedding in frontline teams across services and agencies; undertake joint assessment where relevant of needs and formulation of Care Plans for looked after children and Pathway Plans for care leavers

The CCG is also represented on CBC corporate parenting panel submitting six monthly reports on how the health needs of LAC are being met.

Children in Care Council (CiCC)

A good working relationship has developed between the Designated Nurse, the children in care council (CiCC) 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.

The Designated Nurse attended a CiCC event on the 17th February 2016; this was to engage with young people to review the CiCC pledge. The event was interactive and well attended by young people and representative from CBC.

Voice of the child

The Designated Nurse is a member of Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) sub group for the voice of the child, working in partnership across education, health, public and the local authority to monitor and record the voice of children and young people across Central Bedfordshire.

The group developed an active participation self-assessment framework with partners in line with our statutory responsibilities and latest supporting guidance. The framework enables organisations, partnerships and directorates to help establish their effectiveness and quality of their approach to the development of their active participation policy and practice.

A voice of the child conference has been organised for September 2016. Pupils from five local schools have been invited to attend and participate in the day, which will have key themes around how young people view the services they attend.

The LAC strategic and operational health groups within the CCG.

The CCG continues to play an active role on the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards for Central Bedfordshire by ensuring active engagement in the Safeguarding partnerships.

Strategic planning for LAC is directed through the Children's Trust for Central Bedfordshire Council and accountability for the services provided to Looked After Children from the local authority and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) is directed through the Corporate Parenting Panel. Multi-agency strategic planning and operational oversight is directed through the Multi-agency LAC Health Group, which contributes to strategic planning via the Children and Young People's Plans and the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) partnership, and reports up through the BCCG's governance structure.

Following a review of the operational LAC Health Improvement Group (HIMP), the group was restructured to ensure improved partnership working, and to deliver on the strategic aims set by the LAC Strategic Health Board. This has strengthened governance arrangements and the accountability of both groups and respective organisations. The HIMP is now known as the Promoting the Health & Wellbeing of LAC (PHWLAC) as per National Guidance. The Terms of Reference membership for both groups have been revised and agreed thus ensuring that we are keeping the child or young person central to service delivery.

Table 4: The Governance Structure within BCCG



Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of LAC Operational Group (PHW-LAC)

The strategic aims developed by the LAC Strategic Health Board include; monitoring the work of the operational group (PHW-LAC), 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. The PHW-LAC meets quarterly and takes place ahead of the LAC Strategic Health Board to ensure upward reporting and accountable reporting. The PHW-LAC members are expected to report to the Strategic Board on how they are meeting their objectives in line with the strategic aims.

The purpose of the PHW-LAC group is:

- To provide an opportunity for multi-agency networking to contribute to, inform and evaluate a coherent programme of training and workforce development.
- To support resources to meet the health and wellbeing needs of children who are looked after and of care leavers;
- To ensure that all opportunities are maximised for care leavers and children and young people to access appropriate and effective health promotion and services.
- To set objectives in line with the strategic aims.
- To ensure that the child and young person is central to service provision
- To record the voice of the child and be able to demonstrate how this influences service provision.

The membership of the PHW-LAC group:-

Job Title & Organisation	
CCG Designated LAC Nurse and Head of Safeguarding	Public Health Manager
Staff Representative from LA,s Safeguarding Children Service	Representatives from the Health Visiting and school Nursing Services (SEPT)
LAC Health Nurse(s) (SEPT)	LAC Team Managers for each Local Authority
Brook Service Manager	Operations Lead for Youth Offending service
Lead Nurse Specialist Services for Children & Young People	Representative(s) from Mental Health and Well-being Services for Young People
Virtual School Lead for each Local Authority	Representative from the Fostering & Adoption Training Teams in each Local Authority
Representative(s) from the Voluntary Sector	Representatives from Children's Workforce Development Services in each Local Authority
Representative from Oral Care	Youth Participation Leads for each Local Authority

Each service that attends the PHW-LAC has responsibility for setting their own objectives to meet the aims of the strategic health board. BCCG have developed a reporting template to ensure that the objectives are SMART, and to encourage a problem solving approach to overcome any barriers in meeting the aims and ensuring the child is at the centre of services.

The LAC Strategic Health Board

The purpose of the LAC Strategic Health Board is to work in partnership with, and hold accountable, the Promoting the Health and Well-being (PHW) of LAC group, to ensure appropriate and cost effective services are delivered to Looked after Children. The strategic group meets quarterly and follows the operational PHW-LAC meetings. The strategic group has the following responsibilities:

- Ensure clear lines of accountability are in place and that issues identified are addressed in a timely manner
- Ensure relevant information sharing occurs between BCCG and relevant stakeholders
- Monitor and delegate appropriate work streams to the Promoting the Health and Well-being of LAC Group
- Identify strengths and gaps in service provision
- Develop multi-agency plans to address key issues
- Monitor progress against agreed actions
- Review and monitor service developments
- Receive and review the annual LAC Health Report
- Monitor performance data and ensure timely action is taken to remedy poor performance
- Escalate concerns in service or performance where not appropriately addressed
- Ensure all LAC work is in line with statutory guidance, NICE and essential standards
- Maintain a LAC risk register

Membership

Job Title & Organisation	
Head of Patient Experience & Safeguarding, BCCG (Chair)	Systemic Psychotherapist – Early Intervention Children Looked After Service
Designated Nurse for LAC, BCCG	Head of Corporate Parenting, CBC
Designated Doctor for LAC, BCCG	Head of Service for LAC, BBC
Head of Service, Safeguarding Children, SEP T CHS	Head of Service, Virtual School & Vulnerable Learners, CBC
Head of Public Health	Head of Service, Virtual School & Vulnerable Learners, BBC
Safeguarding Facilitator	

The LAC strategic aims have been discussed and agreed for 2016-2017. The aims are as follows:

Strategic Aim 1: To ensure effective channels of communication between local authority staff working with looked-after children, CCGs, educational provision, health service providers, as well as carers

Strategic Aim 2: To ensure that looked-after children (according to age and understanding) have the information they need to make informed decisions about their health needs, including appropriate levels of health promotion and education, and access to universal services as well as targeted services.

Strategic Aim 3: To ensure the timely and effective delivery of health services.

Strategic Aim 4: To take into account the views of looked-after children, their parents and carers, to inform, influence and shape service provision, including through the Children in Care Councils

Strategic Aim 5: To ensure all staff working with looked-after children who are delivering health services receive appropriate supervision, training, guidance and support

The board have now met twice since the restructuring and meetings have been well attended by all the members.

Looked After Children Clinician's Group

This is a forum for clinicians to discuss practice experiences (positives and challenges), review literature and guidance for LAC, feedback about conferences and training, identify training needs and improve links and liaison across the county and within the LAC arena. The group has the remit to make recommendations on health and medical matters to other groups, and reports to the LAC Health Groups for Bedfordshire and Luton; the LAC Health Groups will also refer clinical issues to this group for consideration. To date, the group have met on a quarterly basis and have had four meetings in 2015-16. The meetings are well attended by the Designated Professionals and there is a good representation from the Luton LAC health team. The Bedfordshire LAC health team has only managed to attend one of the four meetings this has been put down to capacity issues.

The LAC Health Team

South Essex Partnership University Foundation Trust (SEPT) is commissioned by BCCG to provide a service for statutory health assessments for Looked After Children from Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. The purpose of the health assessments are to:

- Ensure that holistic and specific health needs are identified and plans in place to support/manage needs, including opportunities for routine health checks and screening, preventative measures and health education/promotion.
- The service co-ordinates the statutory LAC Health Assessments for in county and out of county placements for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough children and young people. This process is supported by an administrative single point of contact within each Local Authority which improves the efficiency and streamlining of this service.

The Service Specification was reviewed and agreed in February 2016. It requires that the Specialist Nurses for LAC quality assure all health assessments completed by external health providers, and quality assure a 10 % dip sample of all those completed by SEPT health professionals. This ensures that all assessments meet the required standard. Any issues identified through the quality assurance process are followed up, as specific to the child/young person, or as development of the professional undertaking the assessment.

A key change to the service specification now includes that if a young person is placed out of area and there is no provision in the out of placement to carry out the health assessment, they can be invited back to Bedfordshire to undertake their health assessment; this is with the proviso that the young person, foster parents and social worker are all in agreement. The health assessments will be completed by the LAC health team in line with normal contractual arrangements and not incurring additional payment arrangements.

The CCG has implemented a process for the funding of initial /review assessment for Looked After Children placed out of area (OOA). The process will ensure that any payments made to an OOA provider will be quality assured by the LAC health team prior to any payments being made. This will ensure that the children and young people placed OOA have a detailed comprehensive health assessment. The CCG has an escalation process in place for when there are issues in commissioning health assessment for children placed OOA. In 2015/16, the designated nurse was referred 10 CBC cases, 9 of which were successfully resolved and one remains ongoing. The Service Level Agreement and the escalation process for OOA providers is currently under review.

Community Paediatricians undertake the Initial Health Assessments for Bedfordshire Children placed in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Border. Access to Community Paediatricians is via clinics in Bedford and Flitwick. Bedfordshire children/young people placed out of county and within one hour of the Bedfordshire borders will be invited to attend a Bedfordshire Paediatric clinic for their Initial Health Assessment. Those placed outside this area will be completed by an out of area provision under a service level agreement, or invited back as outlined above if no provision available.

The Specialist Nurse for LAC is responsible for undertaking the Review Health Assessments for Looked after Children in residential care settings, and for those children/young people with more

complex needs, as well as participating within the SEND agenda, engaging with education health care plans (EHCP).

A Specialist LAC Nurse is aligned to each of the local authorities to provide direct access for supporting frontline social workers to support the health needs of LAC and enabling dialogue with local authority LAC team managers to discuss performance indicators and specific process issues.

The LAC Health team comprises of two Named LAC Nurses, two LAC specialist nurses, two co-ordinators and one administrator. The Band 6 LAC nurse positions have been vacant since February 2016 but following a recent recruitment drive both vacancies have now successfully been filled and the nurses are due take up the post in July 2016.

Comment from a foster parent:

"I would like to particularly highlight the work LAC nurse carried out for a little boy I looked after offering advice and the course of action I should take as well as referrals by her to sort out the situation. I felt she totally understood my concerns and reacted in a way I couldn't fault. This resulted in a positive outcome - thanks to the LAC nurse help and guidance."

Leaving and After Care

The Looked After Young People's Nurse within the LAC health team provides care leavers with support which is offered until their 21st birthday. All Care Leavers, whether placed in or out of county, are provided with contact numbers and details of the LAC Health Team at the time of their final Health Assessment, in order to facilitate easy access and support as required.

The service specification was reviewed and agreed in February 2016 to include:

- To ensure all Care Leavers are offered a service from the LAC Health Team and are provided with information on how to access health care provision
- The leaving Care Service ensures it makes contact with all Care Leavers within the first three months of leaving care to offer any further support or advice
- To provide all Care Leavers who are placed out of area, and whose final RHA is undertaken by an external provider, with the Leaving Care Letter
- To raise the awareness of the availability of the leaving care service and the support it can offer to young people
- To increase the number of young people leaving care who have received a Health Passport. This process is currently under review.

BCCG is working with The Care Leavers Association on a three year project commissioned by the Department of Health to improve the health of adults and young people by utilising the user voice to develop guides and resources to better inform commissioning and delivery of services.

Child Sexual Exploitation

NHS organisations are subject to the section 11 duties of the Children Act 2004, which places responsibility on the health provider to ensure that effective safeguarding children arrangements are in place. This is achieved through commissioning and monitoring processes identified within the contractual arrangements, and includes arrangements regarding child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Safeguarding Children Boards have developed a strategic CSE action plan based on identified risks and recommendations from an independent CSE review. A pan Bedfordshire Child Sexual Exploitation Group (CSEG) has also been developed which has replaced the previous Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (CSEP). CSEG is a multi-agency group which ensures a co-ordinated approach to concerns about child sexual exploitation and to maintain an overview of emerging child sexual exploitation issues in Bedfordshire. BCCG is represented on both the strategic group and CSEG to ensure health partners are involved throughout.

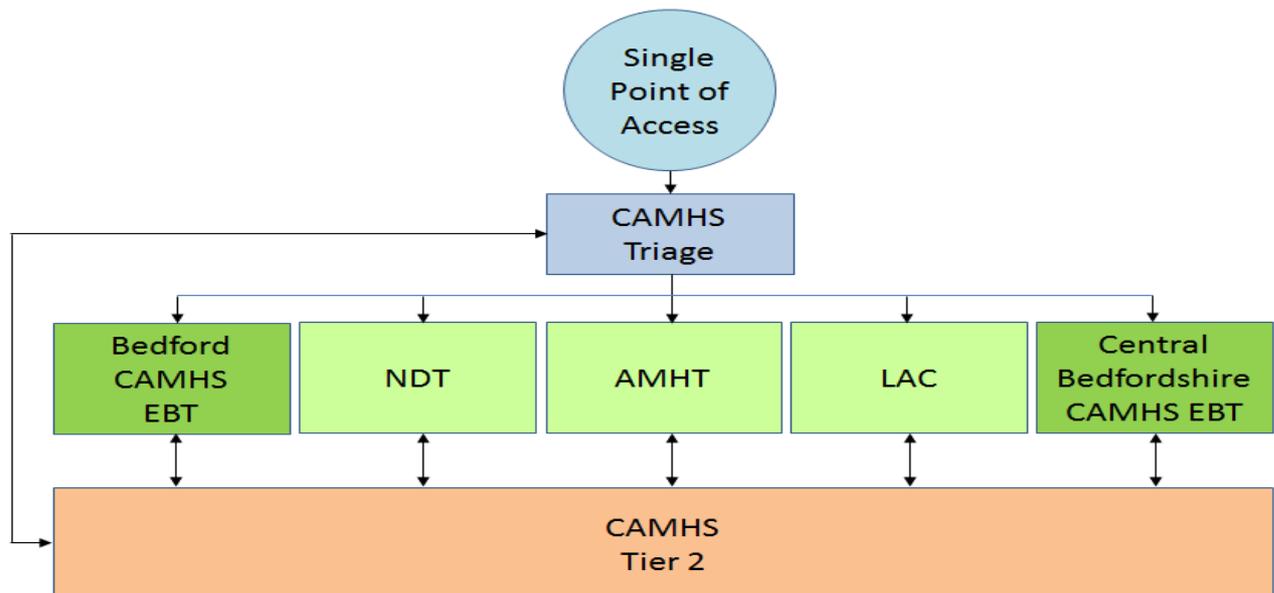
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

A review of Bedfordshire CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) is being carried out by Bedfordshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Services to deliver a more locally focused evidenced-based model of care, to best suit the individual care needs of those requiring support as close to their home as possible.

The revised stepped model of care will aim to include:

- an integrated service with a single point of access
- a focus on early intervention
- improving input from children and young people
- Community-based delivery
- Moving from a medical to a social model
- Key outcome measures
- A single assessment process
- Reduced waiting times and no internal
- Quick response to Mental Health crisis
- Vulnerable groups such as Looked after Children, those with a learning disability and Young offenders require dedicated resource to ensure that their specific needs are prioritised

Bedfordshire CAMHS Clinical Service Model



EBT = Emotional and Behavioural Team
NDT = Neurodevelopmental Team
AMHT = Adolescent Mental Health Team
LAC = Looked After Children

Other CAMHS news:

- Bedfordshire CAMHS has been selected to be part of the National CAMHS School pilot which aims to enable health services and schools to work more closely to improve access and increase mental health awareness in schools. Eleven schools across Bedfordshire have been identified to work within the pilot including four special needs schools. CAMHS have worked closely with each school to identify the local training needs and developed a comprehensive package tailored to meet the needs within each school, which includes staff training, staff consultation and student drop in services where required.
- The expansion of the Eating Disorder Outreach service and development of perinatal services - support for pregnant women with mental health issues - are planned for Bedfordshire using Department of Health (DoH) transformational funds.

Training

Training delivered by the Named nurses within the LAC health team

Title: *The Health Needs and Assessment of Looked after Children and Young People*

The aim of the training was to give a greater awareness of health needs to all health professionals who complete health assessments, and to recognise and take into consideration any additional needs that may impact on the provision of health care for looked after children and young people.

This training is in line with the Intercollegiate Role Framework for Looked after Children (March 2015) and the Revised Statutory Guidance for Looked after Children (March 2015).

- A total of 7 full-day training sessions were held between Jan & Feb 2016

- Training was delivered to members of the 0-19 teams, Children's Specialist Nursing Team, Family Nurse Partnership team and Immunisation team
- A total of 118 people attended over the 7 sessions and all attendees completed evaluation forms
- 113 out of the 118 answered 'yes' to the question 'did this training meet your requirements' with 2 indicating 'more than', 1 indicating 'mainly', 1 indicating 'sort of' and 1 indicating 'too basic'

Comments from attendees:

*Ensuring the voice of the child is heard in an assessment.
 Obtained more clarity around the completion of health assessment paperwork.
 The importance of the SMART health care plan. /Case studies were very useful.
 Ensuring the delivery of health promotion. / Clarification around consent.
 The use of assessment tools and using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 Better understanding of private fostering arrangements
 CQC feedback and recommendation was valuable. / The importance of timeframes for assessments.*

GP Training

The CCG delivers level 3 Safeguarding to all GP practices within Bedfordshire. As part of the training the Designated Nurse for LAC promotes the roles and responsibilities of GPs in relation to looked after children which includes to act as an advocate for the health of each child or young person who is looked after. GPs are also advised about the need to ensure timely, sensitive access for LAC to a GP, making sure referrals are made to specialist services as appropriate, taking into account the needs and risk of frequent placement change for many children and young people who are looked after. The importance of maintaining accurate and comprehensive records for each young person and to provide report and health summaries as required are also emphasised.

The training also raises awareness in regards to private fostering on how to identify, how to report and to whom. This part of the training was also delivered to the 0-19 team within SEPT. In 2015/16 the CCG have delivered three full day training sessions with approximately 25-30 delegates per session.

BCCG Audits for the LAC service completed 2015-16

Leaving and After Care Audit

The audit took place over two sessions. Information was gathered from the electronic data base used by SEPT, and was completed in conjunction with the manager from the Leaving Care and Looked after Children's service. The audit reviewed the Health Assessments, Health Passports and any other relevant information on the young person held by the Leaving Care Team.

The audit tool itself was based on an audit developed by London Southbank University, and the National Standards in Leaving Care subgroup of Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Leaving Care Project 2005. The sample was chosen at random from a list of the full cohort of young people who had accessed the leaving care service within the allotted time period July 2015

– December 2015. There were 21 health assessments completed in this time, of which ten were reviewed, 5 from each Local Authority.

Risks identified from the audit:

It was evident from the records that there had been some intervention from the LAC health team in offering the young person a Health Passport. It did not appear to have been completed with the young person but at a later date. The majority of the information was lifted from their final health assessment, although there was some relevant information that was not carried across to the Health Passport. There was little information in regards to past medical history included some of this was due to the limited information provided by the GP's.

There had been delays in completing the health passport due to misunderstanding in regards to obtaining consent however this has now been addressed. There were missed opportunities to discuss risk taking behaviour in regards to Child Sexual Exploitation. This issues will be addressed within Safeguarding training and monitored by the CCG.

There was no evidence seen that the views of the young people were asked on how they felt about the service they received from the leaving care service. Following the audit an action plan is now in place and will be monitored by the CCG.

Action	Owner	Timescale	Review
To continue to produce good quality health assessment	SEPT LAC Health Team	Ongoing	21 st October 2016
To review the Health Passports process. To engage with GP's in the process	SEPT LAC Health Team Designated Nurse BCCG CBC/BBC	Six months	21 st October 2016
To involve young people in the review and design of the Health Passport	SEPT LAC Health Team Designated Nurse BCCG CiCC CBC/BBC Leaving and After care forum	Six months	21 st October 2016
To ensure all practitioners within the Leaving Care Team are up to date with Safeguarding training paying particular attention in regards to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).	LAC Health Team	Quarterly reporting to BCCG in line with the Service Specification and quality report	Quarterly

To ensure that young people are asked their views and opinions of service that they receive from the LAC team.	LAC Health Team	Quarterly reporting to BCCG in line with the Service Specification and quality report	Quarterly
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The overall conclusion of the audit is that the quality of the health assessment was good in capturing a rich amount of information in regards to the young person. Although further development now needs to take place to capture the voice of the young person in regards to the service provision delivered by the LAC Health team. This will be monitored via the contractual route which reports directly to the CCG.

Review date autumn 2016.

[Quality Assurance audit of Review Health Assessment \(RHA\) completed by the Named Nurse within the Looked After Children's \(LAC\) Team.](#)

The purpose of the audit was to seek assurance of the quality of the RHA's completed by the Named Nurses. It was undertaken on the 20.04.16, with a total of 10 cases reviewed. The electronic database was accessed with the support from the LAC health team coordinator, with cases chosen via random selection. A list of all the children and young people that received an RHA within the time period was provided by the LAC Health Team; every 10th case was selected. The RHA were completed over the period from July-December 2015.

[Findings:](#)

There were no concerns in regards to the quality of the RHA completed by the specialist LAC nurses. It was evident from the RHA's reviewed that the nurses are providing consistently good quality assessment. There was evidence of good communication skills which was evident by the quality of the information provided by the foster carer and the young people. The reports were well written and informative. The plans had clear actions including who was to undertake each action.

Review Date April 2017.

[Future Developments 2016/17](#)

Actions	Lead	Timescale	Review
To review the pathway in regards to the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score being available to inform the RHA.	Designated Nurse LAC Health Team (SEPT) Local Authorities CAMHS Virtual Schools	12 months	March 2017
To link in with the SEND agenda to explore how the health summaries could inform the Educational Health Care Plan for children and young people who are LAC.	Designated Nurse LAC health Team Virtual Schools Local Authorities SEND service for LAC	12 months	March 2017

To record the voice of the child, young person and foster carer in regards to how they view the service they have received from the LAC Health team	LAC health Team (SEPT)	Quarterly reporting to BCCG in line with the Service Specification and quality report	Quarterly
To review the pathway for the OOA escalation process	Designated Nurse CCG	12 months	March 2017
To review the service level agreement and pathway for OOA placements	Designated Nurse CCG	12 months	March 2017
To develop a service level agreement and pathway for OOA placements in regards to CAMHS provision	Designated Nurse CCG	12 months	March 2017
To develop a pathway for babies admitted to neonatal intensive care who require an IHA.	Designated Nurse Designated Doctor Neonatal Consultant Bedford Hospital Local Authority CCG	12 months	March 2017
To improve the timeliness of IHA in line with statutory guidelines	Designated Nurse CCG Local Authority	12 months	March 2017

Conclusion

This report has shown the services that are available to Looked After Children for 2015-2016 in Central Bedfordshire. Throughout the report it has identified areas that require future development which will be reported on in the annual report for 2016-2017, with BCCG working in partnership with the Local Authority and South East Partnership Trust. The CCG will continue to monitor the provision of health services that they commission within Central Bedfordshire to ensure that Looked After Children and Young People receive an appropriate and cost effective service in order for them to achieve their full potential.