

Report for Central Bedfordshire Corporate Parenting Panel

Report Subtitle: Future Developments from the Annual Report 2015/16

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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 2015/16 which was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel in September 2016. A detailed annual report will be issued for 2016/17 in the summer of this year.

The following commitments were made within the Annual Report 2015/16

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
- b. The LAC Strategic Health Boards meets quarterly and is well represented by the Head of Service from CBC. The sharing of performance data is now presented at the meeting. This ensure early identification of any issues relating to the timeliness of health assessments
- c. The data will be presented within the health annual report 2016/17

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.

- a. The CCG has implemented a new service level agreement November 2016 with a clear emphasis on LAC.
- b. This was implemented to ensure that out of area providers that are commissioned by the CCG to undertake health assessment for Central Bedfordshire LAC meet a required standard. Payment will be withheld to the providers if these standards are not met.

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. Training continues to be provided for the GP's which 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.

4. 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 has carried out a number of workshops, one that involved young people from several schools in the area. The age range was 9-18 years. Question were asked as to what the young people felt about the services they receive. The data was then collated and from this a questionnaire was developed

which will be piloted in March for 3 months across all partners and services. This will then be reviewed with a view to embed it into practice.

- b. The Designated Nurse for LAC will be auditing the leaving and after care service with a particular emphasis on health passports in the summer.
- c. A workshop was held for practitioners. This provided them with feedback from the young people's session. The questionnaire and the pilot was also discussed. Practitioners also shared what they have in place now to capture the voice of the child.

5. *The Leaving and after care service including the Health Passport*

- a. The LAC health team from SEPT presented a workshop in September 2016 where they launched a new leaving and after care service.
- b. The service includes a Health Passport which contains a detailed health history of the young person who is leaving care.

6. *Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Lead*

- a. This is a new post which is unique to Bedfordshire. The remit of the role is to raise awareness in identifying and referring cases in regards to CSE.
- b. The role involves multi- agency training. Training will be provided in March 2017 to the promoting health and wellbeing group for looked after children.
- c. The post holder also sits on the Child Sexual Exploitation Group (CSEG) and feeds back any relevant information to health partners.

7. *Designated Clinical Officer*

- a. A Designated Clinical Officer has been appointed to support the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)
- b. The role is to support the implantation of Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) for children and young people and to ensure input from health services
- c. A high percentage of LAC children have additional educational needs and require an EHCP. As a result the designated nurse for LAC will working closely with the post holder to ensure we are meeting the needs of these children.

8. *CAMHS update*

- a. There continues to be designated LAC team within the CAMHS.

- b. There is now a single point of access for all referral this ensure that the children and young people are signposted to appropriate services.
- c. The future in Mind steering is looking how to review the effectiveness of the service.
- d. Bedfordshire CCG is an active part of a regional working group to draw an East of England protocol for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- e. The East of England protocol will spell out the agreed principles and practice that will be applied when a looked after child from one LA area presents in another LA area in need of
 - a. a routine community CAMHS referral
 - b. a specialist CAMHS intervention/support when a crisis occurs – either in the community or General Acute Hospital setting
 - c. admission to a CAMHS Tier 4 inpatient unit
- f. The protocol for East Midlands will be rolled out in early spring.

9. Child Protection- Information Sharing (CP-IS)

- a. The national implementation of the CP-IS is part of the NHS standard contract
- b. CP-IS is a secure system with clear rules governing access. Only authorised staff involved with the care of a child can access the information
- c. With CP-IS:
 - I. medical staff are alerted if a child they're treating is subject to a CPP or LAC and given contact details for the social care team responsible for them
 - II. social care teams are alerted when a child in their care attends an unscheduled care setting
 - III. Providing instant access to this information means vulnerable children can be identified wherever they are cared for in England.
- d. CBC are fully engaged in the process with implementation of the system planned for April 2017.

