

Cheshire East Council

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 2nd May 2017

Report of: Sheila Williams Designated Nurse Cared for Children
NHS Eastern and South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning
Groups

Subject/Title: Update on Health of Cared for Children and Young People

1. Report Summary

This report provides information the Cheshire East Corporate Parenting Committee in their role as corporate parents regarding of the health and well-being of the children in their care. It is important to recognise both the statutory responsibilities for this vulnerable group of children and young people, and the role of agencies working together as corporate parents, in having “high aspirations”:

“Parents want their child to be healthy and happy and to reach their full potential.”
(DfE & DoH, 2015).

This report is to provide assurance to the Board and to highlight any potential areas for service improvement. Feedback on the content of this report would be most welcome.

In Cheshire East, Looked after Children are referred to as Cared for Children. For the purposes of this report the terms are synonymous.

Multi agency partnerships are being strengthening by the developing via the Corporate Parenting Operational Group which reports to the Corporate Parenting Committee. This will enable greater scrutiny of how the local authority and health services work together in relation to Cared for Children’s health. With this in mind the Corporate Parenting Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board have requested update reports on a six monthly basis.

2. Recommendation

Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:

- 2.1.1 Receive the information contained within this report and to scrutinise the contents.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. As an advisory Committee to Cabinet, it is important that Corporate Parenting Committee has a comprehensive overview of the health of Cheshire East cared for children and care leavers.

4. Care Quality Commission Inspection

During September 2016 the Care Quality Commission (CQC, 2016) conducted an inspection of health services for Looked After Children and Safeguarding in Cheshire East. A narrative report was produced overall this was a positive report however a number of recommendations were made and an action plan subsequently been agreed. These actions all related to areas previously identified and included in the 2015-16 annual report.

The following recommendations relate to Cared for Children:

1.5 Implement plans to introduce health passports for all children leaving care so that they have access to their health histories.

Update: This work is in progress but not yet embedded in service provision. It will develop further over the course of 2016-17.

2.2 Ensure that a named nurse for cared for children is employed to lead the operational delivery of the service that is separate from the quality monitoring role carried out by the designated nurse.

Update: With changes to commissioning arrangements the role of Named Nurse Cared for Children has been combined with Named Nurse Safeguarding Children Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust. This Nurse line manages the Specialist Nurses and admin staff based at Cledford House.

7.3 Ensure that the role of designated nurse for cared for children is carried out by a person who is not also employed by the provider as part of the service delivery.

Update: Staff changes have provided an opportunity to separate the two roles. These changes will be implemented during Summer 2017.

8.1 Develop the systems for notifying medical professionals of the requirement for both initial and review health assessments for cared for children, and for completing the health assessments within statutory timescales so that cared for children are not disadvantaged in having their health needs planned for, and met in a timely way.

Update: This work continues to progress with the development and embedding of shared systems for reporting using liquid logic.

8.2 Ensure that all cared for children and young people have the opportunity to choose where to have their health assessments carried out.

Update: Practitioners are being actively encouraged to consider the most appropriate location for health assessments.

8.3 Provide information or training to all school nurses about expected standards for completing looked after children review health assessments, particularly in relation to capturing the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

Update: Arrangements for training are being reviewed in light of the transfer to Wirral Community NHS Trust. Compliance with training is currently above 90%.

5. Root cause analysis of compliance with Initial Health Assessments:

In response to poor compliance with timescales for initial health assessments (IHA) a root cause analysis has been undertaken across four Cheshire CCGs and recommendations made. It has been agreed that dedicated admin support and dedicated IHA clinics will take place in Cheshire East and are becoming established. A refreshed pathway for IHA has been agreed. Further scrutiny and monitoring is required however improvements are at last becoming established.



6. Key performance indicators

Data regarding statutory health assessment, dental care, immunisation status and emotional and mental health screening (based on Goodman's' strengths and difficulties questionnaires) is currently being agreed as part of the local authority end of year returns to government. A verbal update will be provided to the meeting.

7. Changes to commissioning arrangements

From February 1st 2017 the Cared for Children's Health Team commissioned by NHS Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs have transferred provider to Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust (WCNT). This means that WCNT now provide services 0-19 services and the Cared for Children's Health Team. This has been a y smooth transition with the benefits of shared electronic record keeping.

There are potential benefits to Cared for Children in the development of an integrated commissioning process between CCGs and public health. With this in mind the Designated Nurses are working together make recommendations to the CCGs which reduce unwarranted variation in service provision to Cared for children and maximise service provision.

References:

Care Quality Commission “Review of health services for children looked after and safeguarding” (2016)

http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20161115_clas-cheshire_final.pdf

DfE and DoH (2015) “Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-looked-after-children--2>

RCN and RCPCH (2015) “Looked after children: knowledge, skills and competence of health care staff”

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/LAC>

8. Contact Information

8.1. Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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