

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Looked After Children and Young People's Health Team – Annual Report 2017-18

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the work and outcomes for the Looked After Children and Young People Health Team in Gateshead 2017-18. Themes from the team's annual report are presented. There is brief information regarding the work undertaken by colleagues in sexual health and drug and alcohol services. Priorities for the future year are also included.

Background

This document aims to give an overview of the work and achievements of the Looked After Children's Health Team for Gateshead 2017-18.

The Looked After Children's (LAC) Health Team in Gateshead is commissioned by Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group. The team consists of:

Medical Secretary -1WTE

Named Nurse LAC 1 WTE

Specialist Nurse LAC 1WTE

LAC Administrators – 1 WTE and 0.5 WTE

All employed by Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust since 1.10.16.

The team is based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

The Designated Doctor LAC retired in December 2016 and the work has been covered by other paediatricians in the department since then. A LAC Designated Doctor was appointed in March 2018, commencing in September 2018. For ease of reading the activity covered by the group of paediatricians continues to be referred to throughout this report as the work of the Designated Doctor.

Activity

Initial Health Assessments

- The team received a total of 154 notifications of children and young people becoming looked after in 2017-2018 of which 148 had IHA's completed. The remaining 6 were not completed for the following reasons: 5 left care after consent received but before appointment could be arranged, 1 refused

- Our overall compliance for Medical Practitioners to complete the IHA (DH/DfE 2015) was 100%.
- There is on-going monitoring of timeframes for completion of Initial Health Assessments within 28 days (20 working days) (DH/DfE 2015). In 2017-2018 we have achieved 65.85 % compliance, this is an improvement from 43.82% for the previous year.
- The LAC Health Team were able to offer IHA appointments to 93.29% of children within 20 working days of consents being received, an increase on the previous year (77.16%)

A challenge in meeting the overall time frame was the delay in obtaining parental consent from social workers (68.78%). This is an increase from 40.12% the previous year.

Contributing delays:

Late consents together with late notifications	total	34
Lack of clinic appointments		1
Appointments not attended or cancelled by carers		10
Did not attend appointment		5
Returned home		7
Out of area		2
Refused		1
Hospital inpatient		1

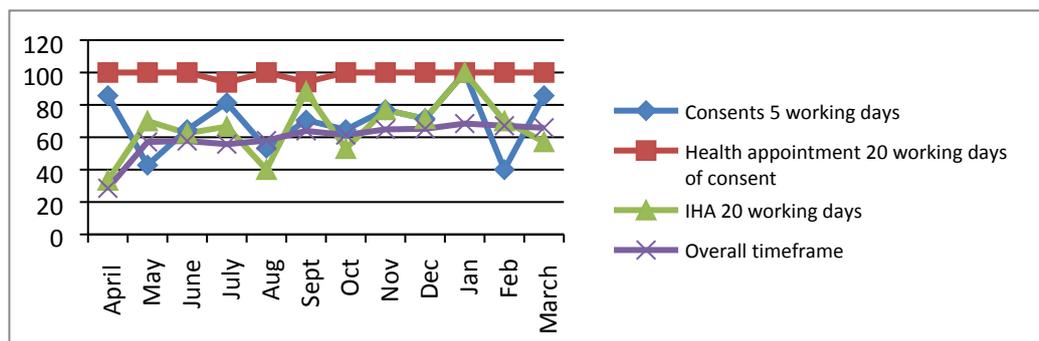
In order to achieve a better understanding of how these difficulties are contributing to timescales not being met on a monthly basis and to ensure that actions are appropriately targeted, data has been collected from April 2017 onwards in the following way:

Total numbers of admissions to care

% of consents received within 5 days

% of appointments offered within 28 days of receiving consent

% of appointments offered within 28 days of becoming Looked After



Review Health Assessments

- A total of 350 RHA's were completed in 2017-2018, a rise from 286 the previous year. 94.3% of these were completed within 28 days of their due date, which is an improvement of 85% for the previous year.

Leaving Care

- The LAC Health Team are commissioned to provide services for Looked after Children up to their 18th birthday. A leaving care health consultation is undertaken by the Named or Specialist Nurse LAC, during the final year (age 17-18). This may be achieved at the time of the final statutory health assessment or may be done as a separate contact closer to their 18th birthday if there are additional needs for services and support.
- The document provided is a Leaving Care Health Passport, which has been developed with young people involved in the consultation phase. Amendments have been made to include links on health promotion and advice on access to health services, previous health and immunisation history are included.
- If the young person agrees a copy is sent to the young person's social worker. Leaving Care Health Passports were provided to 42 of the 42 young people recorded as leaving care (100%). This is an improvement from 94.87 % in the previous year and 68.7 % in the year prior to that.
- Support has been given to personal advisors from the Local Authority to develop their skills on health needs and services.
- The Named and Specialist Nurse LAC have attended the Transitions Meeting to support young people with a learning disability in the transition between children and adult services.
- A Drop In for Care Leavers has been tried and the LAC Health Team have supported this.

Statistical Returns

- The team have achieved good returns as reported by the Local Authority in their SSDA 903 returns to Central Government.

	31/3/18	31/3/17	31/03/16	31/03/15	31/03/2014	31/03/13
Health Assessments	99%	98.8%	99.1%	96.6%	95.7%	96.98%
Dental Appointments	97%	94.7%	90.7%	94.4%	87.9%	92.08%
Immunisations	94%	99.2%	96.9%	94.8%	96.1%	92.83%

- The task of distributing and scoring the Strength & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) lies with the Local Authority and once completed the scores are shared with the LAC Health Team. Information provided by Gateshead Local Authority indicates that during the reporting year 96.7 % of eligible children had an SDQ score submitted. 59.1% had a score 14 or over. The average score was 15.2. As recommended by CQC the scores, when available, have been added to the BAAF health assessment forms and practitioners are expected to interpret the score and reflect on the child's needs and services in place or required, this is being supported through training and supervision.

Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS)

- Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust Children and Young Peoples services (CYPS) provide services for children and young people in Gateshead and Newcastle who present with mental health difficulties. The LAC Health team have no data from the service and would expect that this will be available within the CYPS own Annual Report.
- A LAC Consultation Clinic takes place twice a month. Professionals can refer to this service to discuss cases.

Safeguarding

- The LAC Health Team continue to recognise that the Looked After population are more vulnerable to exploitation and some other forms of abuse and harm. They are therefore not only involved in training to ensure awareness of this within the wider health community but also participate in reviews of Serious Incidents which have involved Looked After Children to see if learning can be identified. The Specialist / Named Nurse LAC attends the LSCB Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) subgroup to consider individual cases where Looked After Children may be vulnerable and attend Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust Safeguarding Committee.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- A significant number of children and young people who are Looked After have been diagnosed with FAS/FASD in recent years. There is a planned review of this work and paediatric services in Gateshead remain involved in the development of a regional approach to the assessment of children with possible FASD. This work remains a long-term objective and is important both for the Looked After population but also the wider population of Gateshead.

Drug & Alcohol Services

- Drug and Alcohol Services for children and young people in Gateshead is provided by the PLATFORM service. There were 16 referrals from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. The referral sources were: A&E – 1, Social Services – 6, LAC Health Team -5, School Nurse – 1, YOT – 2, Aycliffe Secure Unit – 1. The first substance of choice was: Alcohol - 6, Cannabis - 4, MDMA - 1, Nicotine – 5.

Sexual Health Services

- Young people are encouraged to access generic sexual health services in their placement area as required. Those young people identified as in need of specialist intervention are assessed on an individual basis and professionals work together to ensure that their identified needs are met.
- There were a total of 3 young people who had pregnancies during the year. 1 had her baby during the reporting period and two are expected to have their babies after the reporting period. The young lady who had her baby during the reporting period engaged with the Family Nurse Partnership.

- Information provided by Ann Carey, Specialist Nurse Sexual Health, South Tyneside Foundation Trust. There were 29 LAC contacts. These contacts included contraception, pregnancy testing and STI screening. There were also 3 contacts were for pregnancy options.

Adoption

- The Designated Doctor LAC is the Medical Advisor to the adoption agency. This is a statutory role which has been vacant since the retirement of the previous post-holder in December 2016. Since that time this element of the role has been covered by other community paediatricians with appropriate experience. This has involved:
 - Close working with social workers and members of the adoption team to ensure that historical medical information is collated, the child's family and genetic information considered, and that all the child's health and development needs are identified and shared openly with the prospective adopters. This entails meeting with adopters face to face and providing them with a comprehensive medical report.
 - Participating in the stage one training of adopters to highlight the role of the medical advisor and the key risks e.g. the invisible disability associated with exposure to pre-birth alcohol.
 - Sitting on the adoption panel as an advisor and as an independent panel member.
 - Actively considering the implications of Regionalisation of Adoption Services and the ongoing major procedural and legislative changes in adoption which continue to impact upon the Medical Advisor role.
- The previous Designated Doctor LAC had a particular interest in Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and was continuing to develop this until her retirement. This work is not yet part of a commissioned pathway of care. Further review and development of this work is needed, hopefully on a regional basis, drawing in colleagues from other areas.
- 24 adoption medicals (including reviews) were undertaken during the year.
- The Adoption Panel considered 29 matches of children with prospective adopters during 2017/18 which is similar to the previous year number of 26. The Medical Advisor met 25 prospective adopters for 30 children to share all available health information and a detailed health report was prepared for the adopters to share with the new primary health care worker for the child.
- In total during 2017 / 2018 25 children were adopted which is similar to the previous year (23).
- The Medical Advisor reviewed a total of 26 adult medicals with advice being provided to the agency and the panel.

Fostering

- Adult medical advice to the Foster panel has been provided by doctors working with the LAC Health Team. There has been an increase in the number of adult medicals requiring medical advice in 2017/18 (199 – compared to 132 in

2016\17). The Named Nurse has attended some of the panels as an independent panel member.

Training

- Training has been offered to residential and foster carers about the health needs of Looked after Children.
- Looked after children's health needs & issues are included in Level 2 and 3 training delivered to Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust
- Level 3 Safeguarding training – 'Looked After Children –Health Professional Role' continued to be delivered to community health staff that have or may have involvement with this client group and this training was delivered on a quarterly basis in 2017 by the Named Nurse for LAC &YP from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust. The training on Quality Health Assessments for LAC is delivered as part of this course for those carrying out health assessments from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust.

Inspection

- On 20th March 2018, Ofsted conducted a Focused Visit to Gateshead Local Authority Children's Services with a focus on care leavers. Some areas for further development were suggested. Though none of these were specific to the LAC Health Team. It was acknowledged that all young people leaving care in 2017 - 2018 had a health passport.

Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

- The team have fulfilled contractual obligations to the CCG. Team members have attended LAC strategic meetings linked to the CCG LAC strategy 2017-2020. This links with the Corporate Parenting Health Workstream.
- Efficiency has been demonstrated through Dashboard reporting to the CCG.
- External quality assurance has been provided by the Designated Nurse LAC from the CCG undertaking audits of Review Health Assessments.

Team Developments

- A database is being developed and information has started to be collated. In the future this should enable profiling of the health needs of Gateshead Looked after Children and Young People.
- The coverage of Leaving Care Health Passports has improved to 100% coverage. The support to care leavers has continued by improving the coverage of Leaving Care Health Passports, attendance at the Transitions Meeting, introduction of a RAG rating and support to the Leaving Care Team.
- A Care Leavers Drop in has been trialled and LAC nurses will contribute to this once it is set up by the local authority. From October 2018 this has been established and supported by the LAC Nurses.

- The LAC nurses are now completing the majority of review health assessments on the children and young people who are placed out of the area, attending education out of area or not in education but are still placed within the region. These have all been completed in timescale.
- The LAC nurses attend the majority of Strategy Meetings they receive an invite to.
- The team have worked with the local authority to improve the SDQ and consent process.
- The provisional statistics for Key Performance Indicators for the end of year have remained high. The dental percentage has improved from previous years.

Priorities 2018 -2019

- The program of audit will be ongoing and improvements made from the recommendations made.
- To continue to develop work supporting the care leavers.
- The regional pathway for the diagnosis and management of children with FASD will be further developed. Review of the work that has already happened in Gateshead will feed into this process.
- To continue to work closely with the Local Authority to improve the overall timeframes for Initial Health Assessments.
- Support to Designated Doctor LAC who will be new in post.
- To monitor the updated process for SDQs and to use the score as part of the health assessment.
- Obtain feedback from young people regarding the leaving care health passport.

References

Dept. Children School & Families (DH / DfE) 2015 Statutory Guidance –Promoting the Health & Emotional Well-being of Looked After Children

Royal College of Nurses & Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health (RCN & RCPCH) 2015 Looked After Children, Knowledge, skills and competence of health care staff. Intercollegiate Role Framework.

Contact

Jean Hubble

Named Nurse - Looked After Children & Young People, Gateshead.

0191 445 8404