

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Looked After Children and Young People's Health Team – Annual Report 2016-17

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the work and outcomes for the Looked After Children and Young People Health Team in Gateshead 2016-17. 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 2016-17.
- The Looked After Children's (LAC) Health Team in Gateshead is commissioned by Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group. During the reporting period the team consisted of:
Designated Doctor LAC, 6 Direct Clinical Care PA's & 1 Supporting Professional Activity (SPA) for LAC. This includes the role of medical advisor to the adoption agency. The designated doctor is employed by Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
The Designated Doctor LAC retired in December 2016 and some of the work associated with that role has been covered by other paediatricians in the department since then. The post was advertised in 2017 but not recruited to, there is a plan to re-advertise in 2018.
The team consists of:
Secretary -1WTE
Named Nurse LAC 1 WTE
Specialist Nurse LAC 1WTE (from June 2016)
LAC Administrator – 1 WTE with an additional 0.5 WTE from April 2016
All were employed by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust until 1.10.16.
There have been a number of changes to staffing during the year. The LAC Health Team have transferred to a different provider organisation. From 1.10.16 the LAC Health Team have been employed by Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust (GHNT).

Activity

Initial Health Assessments

- The team recorded a total of 187 notifications of children and young people becoming looked after in 2016-2017 of which 165 had IHA's completed. The remaining 22 were/have not been done for the following reasons: 2 no consent received, 1 did not attend appointment, 1 asylum seeker deemed to be 18+, 3 left care before appointment could be arranged, 1 absconded, 14 left care without consent being received.
- Our overall compliance for Medical Practitioners to complete the IHA (DH/DfE 2015) was **97.6%**.
- There is on-going monitoring of timeframes for completion of Initial Health Assessments within 28 days (20 working days) (DH/DfE 2015) In 2016-2017 **43.82 %** compliance was achieved, this is a drop from 47% for the previous year.
- The LAC Health Team were able to offer IHA appointments to **77.16 %** of children within 20 working days of consents being received, a decrease on the previous year (81.7%)
A challenge in meeting the overall time frame was delay in obtaining parental consent from social workers (40.12%) which is a decrease from 59.34% the previous year.
Other contributing delays:
Late consents together with late appointments
Lack of clinic appointments .
Appointments not attended or cancelled by carers.
- Improvement in IHA timescales will continue to be a key priority for 2017-18. So far actions include meetings with the local authority to embed and streamline the process of consents being forwarded to LAC Health Team in a timely manner. In addition medical practitioners have tried to offer flexibility around clinic dates to reduce the number of children seen for IHAs just outside of timescale though this is limited by capacity issues. The effectiveness of these actions will be continuously reviewed and monitored throughout 2017-18

Review Health Assessments

- A total of 286 RHA's were completed 2016-2017
85% of these were completed within 28 days of their due date, many of which were completed earlier.

Leaving Care

- The LAC Health Team are commissioned to undertake statutory health assessments for Looked after Children up to their 18th birthday and to support care leavers 18+ to access the appropriate health services they require. 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; there are many more links on health promotion and advice on access to health services, previous health and immunisation history are included.
- Leaving Care Health Passports were provided to 37 of the 39 (94.87%) young people recorded as leaving care. This is an improvement from 68.7% in the previous year. The two missed opportunities were with those who turned 18 earlier in the year.
- Support has been given to personal advisors from the Local Authority to develop their skills on health needs and 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. The Performance Indicators for health were maintained at a level that exceeds the national average and are improved from the previous year.

	Provisional 31.3.17	31/03/16	31/03/15	31/03/2014	31/03/13
Health Assessments	98.8%	99.1%	96.6%	95.7%	96.98%
Dental Appointments	94.7%	90.7%	94.4%	87.9%	92.08%
Immunisations	99.2%	96.9%	94.8%	96.1%	92.83%

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.
During the year a Consultation Clinic has been commenced and takes place twice a month. Professionals can refer to this service to discuss cases.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

- 6 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children were seen for Initial Health Assessments in Gateshead during 2017. The LAC Health Team used tools developed by other local authorities (eg Kent) more familiar with the needs of this group. Careful consideration was given to their individual needs including ensuring the use of interpreters that they felt comfortable with and offering the option of a male doctor wherever possible. These appointments included discussion around screening for blood borne viruses and considering the specific mental health needs of those who have fled violence and persecution or who may have experienced abuse and harm on their journey to the UK.

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 18 referrals from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. The referral sources were: A&E – 1, Social Services – 6, School – 3, Self - 1, YOT – 7.
The first substance of choice was: Alcohol - 3, Cannabis - 8, Cocaine - 1, MDMA - 1, Nicotine - 3, NPS (predominately Cannabis) - 1, Paracetamol - 1.

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. 2 had their babies during the reporting period and one is due to have her baby after the reporting period. 100% have engaged with Family Nurse Partnership.

- Information provided by Anne Carey, Specialist Nurse Sexual Health, South Tyneside Foundation Trust.
There were 68 LAC contacts.
These contacts included contraception, pregnancy testing and STI screening.

Adoption

- The Designated Doctor LAC is the Medical Advisor to the adoption agency. Since the Designated Doctor LAC role became vacant in December 2016 this statutory element of the role has been covered by other community paediatricians with appropriate experience. This has involved:
 - The Medical Advisor reviewing a total of 40 adult medicals with advice being provided to the agency and the panel
 - Completing adoption medicals for children for whom a plan of adoption has been made. 42 adoption medicals (including reviews) were undertaken during the year.
 - 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.
 - 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 Adoption Panel considered 26 matches of children with prospective adopters during 2016/17 which is similar to the previous year number of 27. The Medical Advisor met 17 prospective adopters for 19 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 2016 / 2017 23 children were adopted which is similar to the previous year (24).
- 24 new families were assessed and approved for adoption by the adoption panel, an increase from 13 the previous year.

Fostering

- The Designated Doctor LAC attended some Foster Panels as Panel Advisor / independent panel member and provided medical advice the other panels.
The Named Nurse has attended some of the other panels as an independent panel member.
- There has been a fall in the number of adult medicals requiring medical advice in 2016/17 (132 – compared to 146 in 2015\16). The Designated Doctor LAC attended 10 foster Panels and supplied advice to 2.
- Due to limited capacity within the service and that there is not a statutory role for the Designated Doctor or other member of the LAC Health Team to attend Foster Panel it has been decided within the team that this service cannot be provided in the future. The paediatrician who is currently covering the role of the Medical Advisor will continue to provide health advice for adult medicals and can be consulted directly on an individual basis to provide more detailed advice if that is required. This can be reviewed once the role of Designated Doctor LAC is recruited to.

Training

- Training has been offered to residential and foster carers about the health needs of Looked after Children.
- The Designated Doctor LAC delivered training regarding Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prior to her retirement to a range of audiences including Paediatricians, Midwives, Nurses, GPs, CYPS, Community Health Workers, a range of educational professionals, probation workers, Social Workers and Barnardos staff. She facilitated this both through targeted work and LSCB training.
- Looked after children's health needs & issues are included in Level 3 safeguarding training to GPs, A&E obstetric and paediatric staff
Level 2 safeguarding training delivered in Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust.
- Level 3 Safeguarding training :
'Looked After Children –Health Professionals Role' continues to be delivered to community health staff and doctors who have or may have involvement with this client group by 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

- Between 6 February 2017 to 10 February 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Gateshead to judge the effectiveness of the area in

implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

As part of the inspection the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding, Designated Nurse LAC, Named Nurse LAC and Specialist Nurse LAC met with an inspector as a focus group.

- Overall, inspectors identified that Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Gateshead are safe and achieve good outcomes. It was also identified that all agencies worked well together to meet the needs of children with SEND. Some areas for further development were suggested. Though none of these were specific LAC, the LAC Health Team will contribute to the multi- agency improvement plan.

Team Developments

- The commitment from the Clinical Commissioning group to fund additional resources in the team has been progressed. A full time Specialist Nurse Looked After Children has been in post since June 2016. The Designated Nurse LAC post in the team was transferred to Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group and that post was replaced with a full time Named Nurse Looked After Children. The change in structure and roles is supported by the guidance in the 'Looked After Children, Knowledge, skills and competence of health care staff. Intercollegiate Role Framework' (RCN & RCPCH 2015)
- A new leaflet for young people has been produced with LAC & YP involvement which includes contact details for the LAC Health Team and information about health assessments.
- The increased staffing resource has supported the development of a database within the team.
- The coverage of Leaving Care Health Passports has improved. The support to care leavers has been improved 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.
- 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. The majority of these have been completed within 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 the end of year have remained high. The dental and immunisation percentages have improved from previous years.

Priority action for 2017 -2018

- Continue a programme of audit strengthened and influenced by the Designated Nurse LAC in the CCG.
- Embed RAG rating for young people age 15 –17 years in relation to health needs to support their transition to leaving care. To monitor the progress of this.
- Continue to develop work supporting the more vulnerable care leavers, including health involvement at Health Transitions Meeting.
- Contribute to the further development of the regional pathway for the diagnosis of children with FAS/FASD Review of the work that has already happened in Gateshead will feed into this process.
- Continue to work closely with the Local Authority to improve the overall timeframes for Initial Health Assessments.
- Recruitment to the post of Designated Doctor LAC is a key priority for the coming year. In the interim arrangements are in place to cover the vital elements of this role.
- To monitor the updated process for SDQs and to use the score as part of the health assessment.
- Obtain feedback from children and young people regarding health assessments, to ensure the voice of the child is heard.
- Provide Level 3 LAC training to health professionals at Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- The timeliness of consents and initial health assessments will be reviewed continuously throughout 2017-18.
- LAC Health Team will provide support to drop in sessions for care leavers once this is arranged by the local authority

Recommendations

That the committee notes the contents of the report and the priority actions for 2017/18

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

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Footnote from Designated Nurse Looked After Children

The role of Designated Nurse for Looked After Children now sits within Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and as such covers both areas. This ensures that the CCG is supported in meeting its statutory requirements for looked after children.

The CCG has developed a Looked After Children's Strategy 2017-2020 containing outcomes aligned to national and local drivers with a focus on supporting provider services in strengthening processes and improving the quality of services to looked after children. The Designated Nurse is also developing a new resource for General Practitioners and staff working in primary care to support and enhance their understanding of statutory requirements and needs of looked after children and care leavers.

The CCG provided additional funding to enable an increase in both the nursing and administration resource within the LAC health team, this was achieved April – June 2016.

The CCG seeks assurance from the health teams it commissions for looked after children on meeting the statutory requirements and relating to the quality agenda and developments this requires.

The CCG is aware that recruitment to the post of Designated Doctor LAC has been challenging. In this interim period the CCG has been assured that the key components of the job have been met from paediatric staff in the provider organisation and that there is an ongoing recruitment strategy in place.

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Designated Nurse Looked After Children

Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group