

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Health and wellbeing of Looked After Children

**REPORT OF:** Designated Nurse LAC, Newcastle Gateshead CCG

---

### **Executive Summary**

This report gives an overview of the work undertaken and planned, to meet statutory requirements and to support the health and wellbeing of Looked After children and by association care leavers in Gateshead

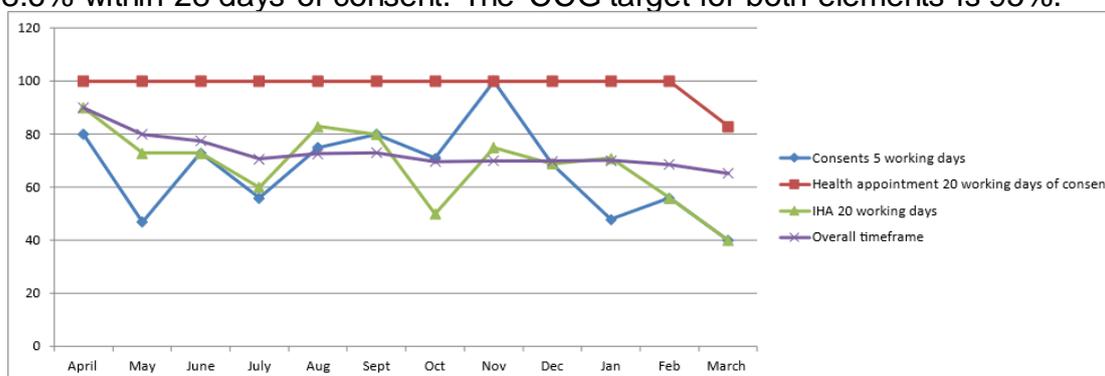
### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek the views of the Corporate Parenting Board on the delivery of services supporting the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children
2. To update Gateshead Corporate Parenting Board on the progress achieved against the key objectives, within Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (NGCCG) Looked After Children Strategy 2019-2022, within the previous 12 months. To note this was a period where all health services were impacted on by the Covid 19 pandemic, which continues to give challenges in the delivery of services.
3. Extracts from NGCCG Looked After Children / Children in Care Annual Report 2020-2021 will outline the key components relating to Gateshead and an update on recent progress will be given.
4. Updates will be given on the delivery and achievement against Key performance indicators (KPIs) for health and against the statutory functions undertaken by the Looked After Children Health Team commissioned by NGCCG
5. Updates on service delivery pertaining to the emotional and mental health needs of the Looked After Children population will be extracted from information provided by colleagues in Cumbria Northumbria Tyne & Wear (CNTW) Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPs)

### **Background**

6. As commissioners of health services Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) continues to fulfil its role in meeting the statutory health needs of looked after children (DoH / DfE 2015) by having appropriate arrangements and resources in place

7. NGCCG commission the statutory roles of Designated Nurse Looked After Children who are employed by the CCG, the Designated Doctor Looked After Children and the Looked After Children Health Team who are employed by Gateshead health Foundation Trust (GHFT) see *appendix 1* for structure
8. The past year has seen ongoing challenges to engage with children and young people in care and their carers against the backdrop of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Health assessments have been returned to face-to-face appointments, unless risk assessments have indicated a virtual appointment more appropriate.
9. An increase in activity was measured for health assessments 2020-21. 152 Initial health assessments (+2%) and 410 Review health assessments (+4.6%) were completed in this period.
10. An ongoing plan is in place to improve the overall timeframe for Initial health Assessments. At end of March 2021 this timeframe was measured at 65.3%, a reduction on the previous year (87.3%). Clinic appointments were provided to 98.6% within 28 days of consent. The CCG target for both elements is 95%.



11. End of March 2021 98% of review health assessments were completed within the month due, an improvement of the previous year (91%) and meeting the CCG target of 95%
12. April 2020-March 2021 33 (100%) leaving care health passports were completed for young people turning 18.
13. Health Key performance Indicators (KPI's) for physical health 2019-2020 were published December 2020 and more recently the 2020-2021 has been published. Recent (March 2021) data demonstrates that Gateshead achieved higher than the England and Northeast returns for completion of health assessments, Developmental checks, immunisations and dental appointments.

	ENGLAND			NORTH-EAST			GATESHEAD		
	18-19	19-20	20-21	18-19	19-20	20-21	18-19	19-20	20-21
ID substance issue	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	8%	10%	6%
Health assessment	90%	90%	91%	95%	92%	94%	97%	98%	97%
Immunisations up to date	87%	88%	86%	94%	92%	89%	95%	97%	94%
Dental check	85%	86%	40%	87%	86%	43%	96%	94%	55%
Developmental check	88%	88%	89%	87%	86%	92%	100%	97%	100%

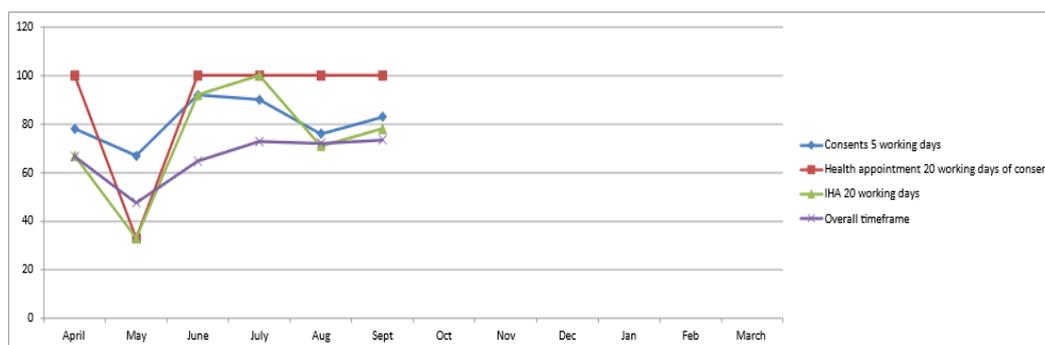
14. KPI published for emotional health and wellbeing based on Strength and difficulty screening undertaken by the Local Authority demonstrates improvement to the coverage of screening, overall total score, and number of children and young people achieving a 'normal' score. The overall score and normal results are still lagging behind the England and Northeast average but the gap is closing incrementally.

	ENGLAND			NORTH-EAST			GATESHEAD		
	18-19	19-20	20-21	18-19	19-20	20-21	18-19	19-20	20-21
SDQ complete	78%	81%	80%	73%	75%	75%	83%	81%	84%
Average score	14.2	14.1	13.7	14.1	14.2	13.9	15.9	15.3	14.3
Normal	49%	49%	51%	48%	49%	50%	36%	42%	47%
Borderline	12%	13%	12%	15%	13%	12%	16%	12%	10%
Cause for concern	39%	38%	37%	37%	39%	38%	48%	46%	43%

15. CNTW, CYPs continue to offer consultation sessions, this moved to online appointments during the Covid 19 restrictions, ensuring this vital support continued. 2020-21 56 Children and young people from Gateshead were discussed covering a wide age range with a higher ratio of males being referred in. The main theme was emotional wellbeing, with behaviour, neurodevelopmental issues, cognitive ability and care planning also recorded as themes for referral. The main outcome recorded was advice and recommendations with only a small minority requiring referral. A small minority sought second consultation in this time period.

### Current position and proposals

16. In Quarters 1 & 2, 2021-22, 73.5% of initial health assessments were completed in timeframe and 88.5% were offered a clinic appointment within 20 days of receiving consent. 79% of appointments were completed face to face. Those completed by virtual means will have face to face follow up if clinically indicated. Timeframes are reported monthly and reviewed quarterly at the Local Authority performance management meeting.



17. In quarters 1&2 2020-21 93% of review health assessments have been completed within the month due. There have been pressures within the 0-19 service which have seen some delays in the cohort that they complete and additional delays with appointments being rearranged due to infection and or isolation . A monitoring tool is in place to measure performance on a monthly basis. 91% of appointments were completed face to face.
18. The Designated Doctor and LAC health team continue to undertake regular audit to ensure that the health assessments produced are of a good quality.

Recommendations from audit provide a continuous improvement framework to support all practitioners undertaking this work.

19. CYP Consultation data for Quarters 1 & 2 2021-22 records 37 consultations for Gateshead children. Advice and recommendations were provided in all consultation sessions with resources being sent via email and summary letters being supplied. Once again only a minority required signposting or onward referral. Feedback is now collected from professionals referring into this process and although a small response most feedback is positive. All felt it was easy to arrange and useful to have this opportunity for in depth discussion. 75-83% felt it provided something different, was helpful to identify concerns, understand the impact of past experiences, clarified intervention to use and helped a specific aspect of the child's care plan. 67% found it was a timely response although there were comments about difficulty in accessing in a crisis. 92% felt consultations online were convenient.
20. Two practitioners with clinical expertise in trauma and mental health have now been recruited to work into the local authority residential care homes and will start in post in January 2022. The role of the Principal Clinical Psychologist and Advanced Practitioner will be to embed trauma-informed care within these environments, and provide training, assessment, formulation and signposting to appropriate services. The practitioners will apply the six principles of the NHS England Framework for Integrated Care listed below
  1. Every Interaction Matters: There is a focus first on building and supporting positive collaborative relationships.
  2. Children and Young People and the relationships they experience are at the centre of all care they receive through genuine co-production.
  3. Those spending most time with young people are the primary facilitators of change.
  4. Positively influencing the day-to-day care is the basis of any intervention and primary focus of support.
  5. All behaviour is understandable in context; there is a focus on developing an understanding of each CYP's behaviour and needs based on their story.
  6. There is a commitment by all to build and sustain trauma-informed organisations.The practitioners will also be responsible for creating a robust plan for data collection to demonstrate the positive outcomes of the service.
21. A review of the LAC health team and wider service has been undertaken by the CCG. This has been helpful in identifying the increase in workload for the team and the paediatric service. A proposal has been drafted and will be reviewed and responded to by commissioners.
22. A project developed with NHS England funding, to gain views of Care Experienced Young People on their health needs, stalled by Covid, was resurrected at the beginning of 2021. This was undertaken across Newcastle and Gateshead. Young People worked with Digital Voice to create a video, using avatars, to describe some of the challenges faced and support required relating to their health needs. This video was premiered with the young people involved and then shown as part of a follow up panel event. We are currently analysing the feedback from this event and there is a lot of activity by a variety of agencies exploring the issues raised and next steps. We aim to report back to the young people, who participated in this project, and the wider audience on the progress made.
23. Link to the Young Peoples video <https://youtu.be/H0aKQGtQ7KM>

24. Link to the panel event <https://youtu.be/YZE7PZGF18A>
25. Gateshead LAC health team continue to populate their database with data from both initial and review health assessments. This is helpful in identifying need within the LAC population i.e., EHCP, and gives direction to the future developments required to strengthen health provision for LAC and care leavers.
26. The Designated Nurse LAC has contributed to the Speech and Language Service review in Gateshead. Within the recommendations LAC are identified a cohort who need enhanced support. We anticipate service development from this report.
27. The Designated Doctor LAC has had initial conversations with the Community Dental Services in Gateshead. It is hoped to develop a pathway for LAC within this service, future meetings are planned for early 2022.
28. The Specialist Nurse LAC is leading on a development in partnership with Sexual Health Services in Gateshead to identify the needs and enhance support to our young people with a key aim of delaying pregnancies.
29. Many will be aware that the structure of the health service is changing and that as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 CCGs will no longer exist. Integrated Care Systems are the new service model which it is hoped will provide closer multiagency working and a focus on local populations. It is not envisaged that this will impact on current services in place for Looked After Children
30. Recruitment to the Named Doctor LAC and the medical advisor for Adoption within Gateshead hospitals is ongoing. The organisation continues to seek opportunities to incorporate the role into recruitment of Paediatric posts. The designated Doctor LAC is currently acting as Medical Advisor Fostering to ensure the work continues.
31. Training and resources for Primary Care have been developed; seven-minute briefings on looked after children and on care leavers have been shared with all Gateshead practices. Safeguarding training recently delivered, had enhanced information on requirements and vulnerabilities of children and young people who have had experience of being in care.

### **Proposal**

32. It is proposed that the themes within NGCCG LAC Strategy 2019-2022 and the Corporate Parenting workplan continue to provide the framework for continuous improvement in health service delivery to Looked After Children in Gateshead.

### **Recommendations**

33. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to comment on the content of this report and advise on the frequency of future reports

---

#### **Contact:**

Linda Hubbucks

Designated Nurse Looked After Children

Tel Mob: 07769362016

Email: [Linda.hubbucks@nhs.net](mailto:Linda.hubbucks@nhs.net)

Appendices

**Appendix 1**

**Looked after Children Team Structure**

<b>Newcastle Gateshead CCG</b>	<b>Gateshead Foundation Trust NHS Hospital</b>
<b>Designated Nurse LAC</b> (Job share) Linda Hubbucks Ellen Robinson	<b>Designated Doctor LAC</b> Dr Eleanor Dawson
	<b>Named Nurse LAC</b> Jean Hubble
	<b>Specialist Nurse LAC</b> Maxine Duffy
	<b>LAC Admin</b> Claire Young Anji Monaghan
	<b>Secretarial Support</b> Lesley Thompson