

TITLE OF REPORT: Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children

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 / Children in our care and by association care leavers/ care experienced young people in Gateshead. It also outlines organisational changes in the NHS structures that came into force in July 2022 relating to commissioning of specialist health services to meet the needs of Children in care.

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/ Children in our care in Gateshead.
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.
3. Extracts from NGCCG Looked After Children / Children in Care Annual Report 2021-22 will outline the key components relating to Gateshead and an update on recent progress, April 2022 onwards, will be given including the impact of organisational change from NGCCG to North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENCICB) on 1st July 2022.
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 /NENCICB as outlined in their Annual Report.**(Appendix 1)**
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)

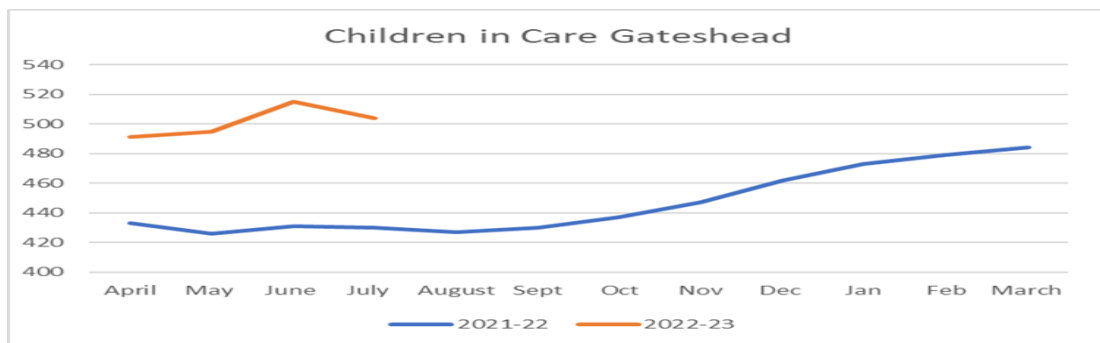
Background

6. Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (NGCCG) had responsibility to fulfil the role of meeting the statutory health needs of looked after children by having appropriate arrangements and resources in place (DoH / DfE 2015). These

responsibilities transferred to North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENCICB) on 1st July 2022.

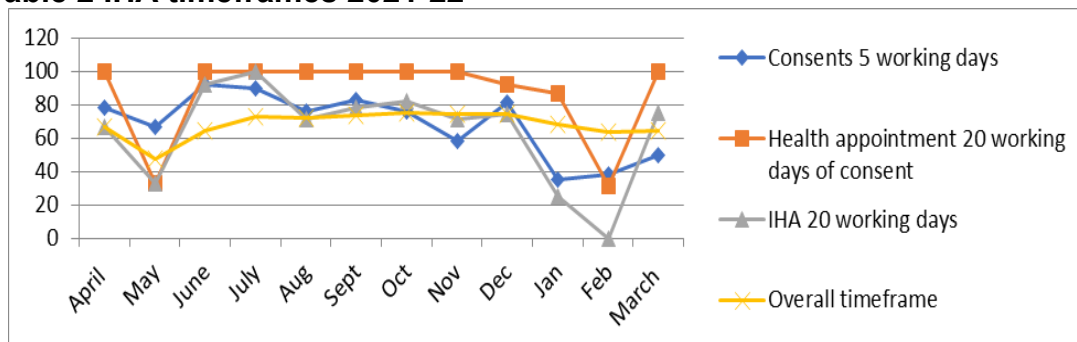
7. NENCICB now commission the statutory roles of Designated Nurse Looked After Children who are employed by the ICB, the Designated Doctor Looked After Children and the Looked After Children Health Team who are employed by Gateshead Health Foundation Trust (GHFT)
8. Since the last report to the Corporate Parenting Panel in December 2021 the number of children and young people becoming cared for has steadily increased. (Table 1) There continues to be some disruption to appointments due to Covid infections but this is reducing and is managed well by the health team.

Table 1 Number of Children in Care Gateshead April 21- July 22



9. An increase in activity was measured for health assessments 2021-22. 178 Initial health assessments (+17%) and 436 Review health assessments (+4.5%) 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 2022 (Table 2) this timeframe was measured at 64.1%, a slight reduction on the previous year (65.3%). Clinic appointments were provided to 89% within 28 days of consent. The CCG target for both of these elements is 95%.

Table 2 IHA timeframes 2021-22



11. End of March 2021 92.4% of review health assessments were completed within the month due, a reduction of the previous year (98%). Delays were in those scheduled for completion by the 0-19 service, where capacity was an issue, and in those requested for completion by external health teams.

12. April 2021-March 2022 33 (100%) leaving care health passports were completed for young people turning 18.
13. Health Key performance Indicators (KPI's) for physical health 2020-2021 (Table 3) were published December 2022. Gateshead achieved higher than the England and Northeast returns for completion of health assessments, developmental checks, immunisations and dental appointments. Provisional data for 2021-22 indicate a slight fall in health assessment completion and immunisations but a rise in dental appointments.

Table 3 2020-21 Health KPI

	ENGLAND	NORTH-EAST	GATESHEAD
	20-21	20-21	20-21
ID substance issue	3%	3%	6%
Health assessment	91%	94%	97%
Immunisations up to date	86%	89%	94%
Dental check	40%	43%	55%
Developmental check	89%	92%	100%

14. KPI's published for emotional health and wellbeing 2020-21 (Table 4) 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. Data for 2021-22 were not available at the time of this report.

Table 4 2020-21 Emotional health KPI

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



15. Cumbria Northumbria Tyne and Wear (CNTW) Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPs) continue to offer consultation sessions. In 2021-22 67 appointments were requested and offered for Gateshead children an increase on 56 the previous year. The main theme was emotional wellbeing, with behaviour, neurodevelopmental issues, cognitive ability and care planning also recorded as reasons for referral. The main outcome recorded was advice, with resources and summary letters being shared. Only a small minority required referral or a second consultation in this time period.
16. A Trauma informed model to support vulnerable groups has been developed, once the service is in place this should offer enhanced the offer to our children and young people up to the age of 25.
17. The Specialist Nurse LAC led on a development, in partnership with Sexual Health Services in Gateshead, to identify the needs and develop enhance support to our

young people with a key aim of delaying pregnancies. It is reported that there were no known pregnancies within the care population 2021-2022.

18. Nurses in the specialist health team recorded attendance at 174 meetings including Care team, strategy, and Missing & Sexual exploitation where a total of 486 children and young people were discussed an increase from 325 the previous year.
19. Key data was once again collected at the time of health assessments. This is helpful in identifying needs within this population for example it clearly shows that children with Educational and health Care Plans (EHCP) are over represented in the care system. There is now several years of data, it is hoped this will demonstrate trends and support the profiling of health needs.
20. The Medical advisors for both Adoption and fostering have seen a significant increase in activity. The Somerset Judgement in late 2021 required all agencies in the adoption process to review procedures and amend where necessary, again this has increased activity. Review of the recruitment of the Adoption advisor was also reviewed to meet legal requirements. Resources continue to be discussed within the NENCICB.
21. The health team reported 12 young people requiring assessment and / or support from drug and alcohol services. Substances used were recorded as; cannabis nicotine and alcohol
22. Quality remains a keystone of service provision the health team and Designated Doctor Lac have undertaken audits of initial and review health assessments and of notification to the team of hospital attendances via the Child Protection Information Sharing process.
23. Young people were contacted to give views on the sexual health service development and on ways to have health assessments completed. A smaller cohort of young people worked with the CCG on the care leavers project.

Current position and proposals

24. In Quarter 1, 2022-23, **47.2%** of initial health assessments were completed in timeframe. Late consent was identified as a main reason for delays, a meeting has been held and actions put in place to address this issue and lead improvement, this will be monitored closely via multiagency meetings and the Local Authority performance clinic.
25. In quarter 1 2022-23 **98.2%** of review health assessments have been completed within the month due exceeding the local target.
26. The team recruited to provide enhanced support around emotional and mental health needs to young people in residential settings and to those who care for them is now in place. No CNTW consultation data for 2022-23 is available yet.

27. A review of the LAC health team and wider service had 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. An outcome is still awaited.
28. The free travel pass for care experienced young people project continues to be developed. It is hoped the passes will be available and distributed in September. It has been requested that the leisure passes are also promoted at the time the young person signs up for their pass as poor uptake of this offer has recently been raised.
29. Regionally it is hoped to develop an enhanced dental service for children in care preliminary discussions have taken place and there is a pilot underway in another area within the North East. In the interim it is hoped that the provision and uptake of appointments continues to recover as Nationally Dental services transform their delivery model in which children and vulnerable groups are to be prioritised.
30. Recruitment to the Named Doctor LAC within Gateshead hospitals is ongoing. The organisation continues to seek opportunities to incorporate the role into recruitment of Paediatric posts. A new Medical Advisor for Adoption has now been appointed. 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; A joint session; Adult and Children's Safeguarding, Looked after children and care leavers was delivered to primary care staff. The health team continue to deliver training to practitioners undertaking health assessments and to carers.
32. The NHS England North Region LAC health group continue to meet and this year the priorities have been Care Leavers, Strength and difficulty screening and transition to ICB. A theme of early deaths in care leaving populations is being progressed and a request for a national review process to be considered. Work is about to commence on developing an ICB strategy for LAC/ Children in Care.
33. The organisational change to NENCICB occurred on 1st July. This ICB is the largest in the country and includes areas of high deprivation with high levels of needs. As the organisation develops Designated Professionals for Looked After Children are highlighting the needs of our populations and are linking with the Chief Nurse and Directors of Nursing at place as a key objective of the organisation is to identify and improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups. An ICB strategy for Children in care will be developed.
34. The Looked After Children Be Healthy meeting has continued quarterly. It has a broad multi agency membership with a rep from the Young Ambassadors and Youth Justice recently joining. The action plan links to the broader Corporate Parenting Partnership Strategy being mindful of the wider regional and national issues and developments while retaining a place-based focus.

Proposal

35. It is proposed that the health themes highlighted within this report continue to develop and where required improvement is made.

Recommendations

36. 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

North East & North Cumbria Integrated Board

Designated Nurse Looked After Children Newcastle & Gateshead.

Tel Mob: 07769362016

Email: Linda.hubbucks@nhs.net

Appendices

Appendix 1

Gateshead Foundation Trust LAC Annual Report 2021-22.



6.3%20LAC%20Annual%20Report%2021-22