

**Report to:** Corporate Parenting Panel

**Date of meeting:** 30 October 2020

**By:** Director of Children's Services

**Title:** Looked After Children Health Report

**Purpose:** To provide assurance to the Corporate Parenting Panel on how, as part of the wider system, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and East Sussex Health Care Trust (ESHT) are fulfilling their statutory duties under the guidance 'Promoting the health and well-being of Looked After Children' (2015).

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### ***RECOMMENDATIONS:***

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to comment on and note the contents of this report

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## **1. Background and Supporting information**

1.1 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are the main commissioners of health services and the purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the Corporate Parenting Panel on how, as part of the wider system, the CCGs and East Sussex Health Care Trust (ESHT) are fulfilling their statutory duties under the guidance 'Promoting the health and well-being of Looked After Children' (2015) which is available as Appendix 1.

1.2 The panel is asked to comment on and note the priorities for 2020-21, including taking forward good practice from the Covid-19 response, implementation of the Sussex-wide service specification and the focus on the mental health and emotional wellbeing of Looked After Children.

1.3 The Pan Sussex Annual report is attached as Appendix 2 and the East Sussex/ESHT specific report is attached as Appendix 3.

## **2. Key achievements:**

- **Initial Health Assessment (IHA) process and timescales for statutory health assessments** - Improvement to pathways for initial and review health assessments achieved by the CCG, health providers and the Local Authority (LA) working closely together. This has resulted in significant improvement in meeting statutory timescales for health assessments. Regular Audit of health assessments has been undertaken to ensure quality.
- **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)**- the inspectors commented on the high quality of the IHA and Review Health Assessments (RHA) assessments that were reviewed.

- **Section 11 audit re-design** – The re-design includes specific sections on Looked After Children for the first time, which goes to all providers across the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.
- **Transition-** There is a strong focus on supporting young people to make the huge transition to independence. The Specialist Health Team, in conjunction with the Brighton and Hove and West teams, have developed a young person's Personal Health Summary document. This Summary provides the young person with their own 'health facts', information about the health service and how to access it and guidance on staying healthy

### 3. Key Performance Data from East Sussex Health Care Trust

3.1 The performance data below demonstrates the clear improvement in timeliness of health assessments in response to improved pathways and reporting:

Initial Health Assessments IHA 2019-20	IHA should be completed and report distributed within 20 days of child entering care	
	Within 20 days of entering care	Within 16 days of complete paperwork being received by ESHT
Q1	20%	7%
Q2	24%	33%
Q3	43%	64%
Q4	25%	100%

Leaving Care Health Summary 2019-20	All eligible children between 16-18 years of age leaving care should be provided with a health summary
Q1	62%
Q2	100%
Q3	100%
Q4	100%

Review Health Assessments RHA 2019-20	RHA should be completed and distributed before expiry of the previous report (6 monthly under 5 years of age, annually between 5-18 years of age)	
	Under 5 years of age	5-18 years of age
Q1	19%	29%
Q2	61%	75%
Q3	71%	65%
Q4	100%	62%

### 4. Impact of Covid-19

4.1 During quarter 4, the Specialist Health Team adjusted the delivery of IHAs and RHAs due to Covid-19 in line with CCG and Government guidance. Appointments were undertaken by phone consultation initially, triangulating information by speaking to the child/ young person (where age appropriate), carers, social workers and other agencies involved in order to inform the Health Care Plan and report.

## 5. Identified risks

- The main priority, to fully implement the Pan Sussex service specification has been delayed meaning that the expected outcomes have not been fully realised.
- Health data for the year evidences clear progression in the health pathway however, timeliness for health assessments continues to be impacted by delay in referral from LA and highlights where there needs to be further sustainable improvements.
- Impact of pandemic restrictions and lockdown
- Need for clear pathways and reporting relating to emotional and mental health for this group of children and care leavers

## 6. Priority work streams identified for 2020-21

- **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health** - The formal evaluation of the Sussex wide review, the East Sussex Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) and the national Anna Freud pilot to be used by CCG, designates and commissioners to inform development of services.
- **Reporting and Governance** - Strengthen reporting across the integrated care system from to inform a health of Looked After Children dashboard which will inform commissioning decisions going forward. This will include a strong focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- **Transition** - Increased oversight of offer to all Looked After Children across Sussex irrespective of placing authority, and to children placed out of Sussex.
- **Workforce Development and Training** - Develop a multi-agency Looked After Children training that is accessed via LSCP as a Pan Sussex offer.
- **Specialist commissioning and Quality** - Supporting commissioners of all health services to have appropriate arrangements and resources in place to meet the physical and mental health needs of looked-after children and improve health outcomes.

## 7. Recommendations

7.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to comment on note the contents of the report.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
Director of Children's Services

### Contact

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### APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children, Statutory guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, March 2015

Appendix 2 – Pan-Sussex Report on the Health of Looked After Children

Appendix 3 – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) Report on Health of Looked After Children in East Sussex