

East Sussex Children in Care Health Overview

Dawn Siddens - Designated Nurse for
children in care

Improving Lives Together

Health's role and key responsibilities

To ensure appropriate arrangements and resources are in place to meet the physical and mental health needs of looked after children

Sussex Health and Care have a dedicated looked after children team which comprises of Designated and Specialist Doctors and Nurses

To work in active collaboration with Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships and key stakeholders



Improving Lives Together

Promoting the health of looked after children

Health's Statutory responsibilities are outlined in the Children Act (2004) and issued to the ICB and local authorities in: [Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children](#)

Initial Health assessments

Completed by medical practitioner

All children seen within 20 days of entering care

Review Health appointments

0-5 years

Completed twice a year by a specialist nurse

Review Health appointments

5- 18 years

Completed annually by specialist nurse

Until either the child is no longer in care, or they turn 18

Leaving Care Health

Summary

offered to all children as they leave care at 18 years

Performance Data

IHAs
61%

RHAs
77%
(89%)

Dental
70%
(70%)

Immunisation
87%
(85%)

Emotional health
screening Scored as
cause for concern
40%
(37%)

UASC
9%
(7%)

Source 903 data 2021-22 England average in brackets

* IHA data is not reported nationally

Improving Lives Together

Strengths and challenges

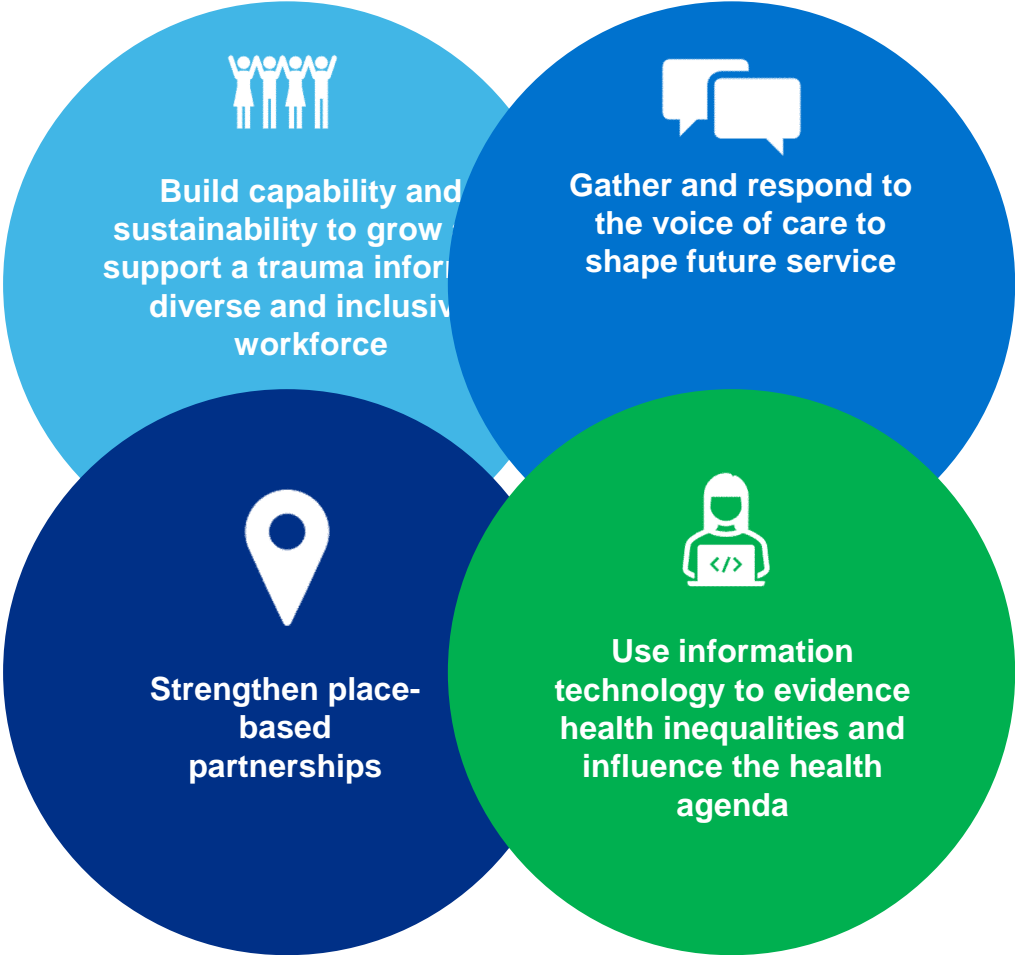
Going well

- Fully staffed nurse health team from June this year
- Pre paid prescriptions for care leavers
- Participation and Co production– 2 care leavers worked in our team to shape the health offer including the voice and wishes of the children – now working on permanent contracts in the NHS
- Additional dental clinics for children in care
- Interactive resource for children aged 4-11 years

Challenges

- NHS staffing challenges – Doctors, Health Visitors, Dentists, Mental Health Practitioners
- The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has increased – these children have specific health needs
- Access to the right mental health support at the right time

Priorities for 2023- 24



Improving Lives Together