

Report for Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) 14 February 2019

Children in Our Care Strategic Group (CIOCSG) Update

The group held their third meeting on 14th December 2018. Items for discussion following the Corporate Parenting Board on 10th December 2018 were:

- Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ's)
- CiOC Health Assessments
- The number of Children in Our Care (CiOC)
- CIOCSG action plan

Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ's)

The SDQ is not a diagnostic tool. Work remains ongoing regarding consistent collation of findings. The DfE captures the carer scores only. These are often completed at a different time to education /health which makes comparisons difficult.

It is anticipated that a more effective way of completing/capturing data will evolve from Children's Services new IT system (anticipated implementation September 2019). Agreed to continue with the current system until phase 1 of Liquid Logic is implemented.

Children in Our Care (CiOC) Health Assessments

A Report from Health is due to be shared at the April 2019 Corporate Parenting Board. Themes/patterns are shared with CCG on a monthly basis and will be referred to in the report.

It was noted that Hartlepool dentists won't share information which can cause difficulties in identifying patterns and/or issues.

There have been ongoing issues with the current way that Social Care report – the data suggests that health/dental checks are overdue/haven't occurred when in fact they have gone ahead. An agreed action from the CIOCSG is to review the current reporting system so data presents a truer picture.

The number of Children in Our Care (CiOC)

The number of Children in Our Care, although stable, remains high. A specific CiOC project has been launched to consider ways to safely reduce this number. This is an agenda item at today's Board.

CIOCSG Action Plan

It was agreed that the action plan would be based on the priorities from the Children in and Leaving Care strategy (2018 – 2021) each agency is to contribute from their own perspective with the focus of the next CIOCSG being to consider whether the action plan is achievable, well balanced and focussed on the appropriate priorities.

A draft copy of the Action Plan is to be shared at today's Board meeting and should be considered alongside the action plan developed by J Wastell.

Rhona Bolland
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