

Report To Corporate Parenting Board 12th April 2019
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT)
Looked After Children's (LAC) Service
Exception Report Quarter 3 2018

1. Introduction

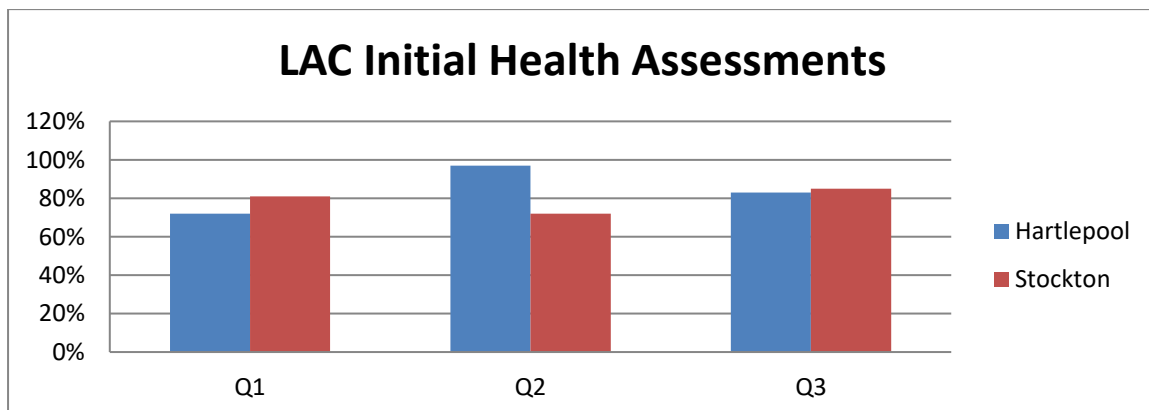
This report will provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of the work undertaken by NTHFT LAC service in order to ensure that health assessments, associated plans and relevant health information for looked after children reviews is provided in line with requirements identified in the statutory guidance - Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children (DfE/DH March 2015).

2. Initial Health Assessments (IHA's)

The LAC Team are making significant progress in identifying the unmet health needs of Children and Young People (CYP) coming into care and the new CCG service specification will enable the LAC Nurses to target these areas. Analysis of health needs identified from all IHA's and improvements developed to address the identified needs is being undertaken and will inform the service offer going forward. The Trust has continued to work closely with the Designated Nurse for HAST CCG to ensure any barriers to maintaining compliance with IHA's are identified and managed. LAC Performance Management Team Meetings are held with the Named Nurse, General Manager of Children's Services and Lead LAC Consultant Paediatrician which identify any predicted increases in service demand so that resilience plans can be implemented to ensure sufficient capacity to respond.

Points to note in relation to reduced compliance include:

- Not receiving timely and appropriate consent for IHA's affects the overall compliance with response times. This is escalated to the Heads of Service in the LA as needed.
- Cancellations by carers are addressed with partner agencies and carers at the time.
- Some Children and Young People refuse to attend their planned appointments. The LAC Team are currently developing a pathway that will support effort to engage the CYP.



In Quarter 3 (Q3) there were 34 IHA's in Stockton. Of these 5 were not completed within the required 20 day timescale:

- 1 was due to CYP refusal. Appropriate Social Care Managers are aware.
- 1 was due to the child being an inpatient.
- 1 was due to the child moving before the IHA could be completed.
- 1 was due to no consent being available.
- 1 was due to the child not being brought by the carer.

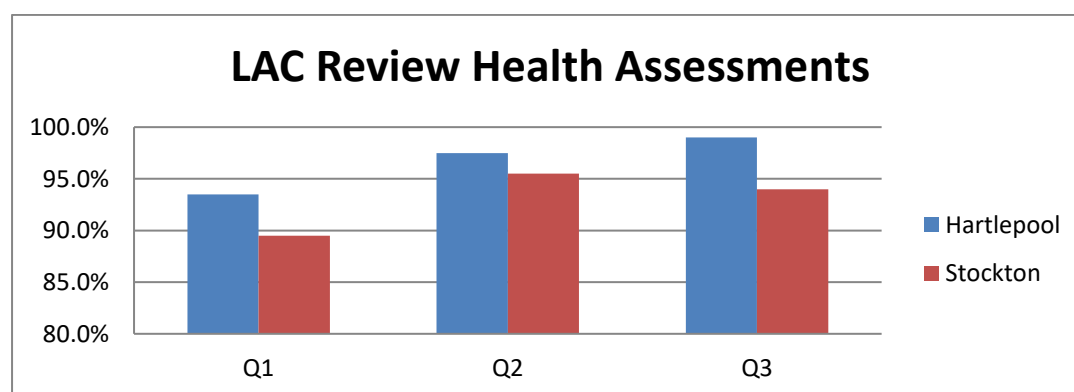
3. Review Health Assessments

To address compliance of Review Health Assessments (RHA's) the existing Standard Operational Procedure was reviewed and updated; more recently an Escalation Pathway is sent with every out of area request so that all agencies are aware of expected timescales to respond and actions the Trust LAC Team will take if the RHA cannot be completed within these timescales. It is expected that this pathway will improve compliance where requests are made for out of area RHA's and that measures can be taken before any out of area RHA's may not meet timescales. Closer working with current providers of the local RHA's in Stockton has been enhanced since the LAC Service Specification was agreed and implemented.

LAC health provision is an integral part of the Trust Safeguarding and LAC Steering Group work programme which reports to the Trust's Children's Safeguarding Steering Group and Patient Safety and Quality Standards Committee.

Points to note in relation to reduced compliance include:

- Capacity to undertake the RHA in services provided by out of area Providers.
- Capacity within the 0-19 service
- Review assessments cancelled by carers or refused by CYP.
- Movement of placement without notification to the LAC Team.
- Late consent for review.
- Errors on waiting lists.



In Q3 there were 148 RHA's in Stockton. Of these 8 was out of compliance:

- 3 were Stockton children placed OOA and appointments were rearranged out of timescales by OOA team.
- 1 was OOA placed in Stockton but appropriate consent not in place.
- 1 was due to (OOA) child moving before RHA could be completed
- 3 were due to failed access visits by the HV in Stockton 0-19 service

4. Dental Assessments

131/148 children were registered with a Dentist- 89%:

- 10 children were too young to be registered- (95%).
- 2 CYP refused.
- 3 cases could not be recorded as HV had failed to gain access at time data was collated.
- 2 were out of area children place in Stockton. Advice offered and carers encouraged to register.

Rachael McLoughlin

Named Nurse - Safeguarding & Looked After Children Teams

March 2019