

Corporate Parenting Board

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday, 12th April, 2019.

Present: Cllr Di Hewitt(Chairman),

Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Michael Henderson, Martin Gray, Jane Smith, Jo Lee, Jackie Ward, David Willingham

Also in attendance: Rachael McLoughlin (NTHFT), Richard Chillery (HDFT), Lynn Brown (TEWV)

Apologies: Cllr Marilyn Surtees

CPB 35/18 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

CPB 36/18 **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

CPB 37/18 **Health assessments,for looked after children**

Members considered a report that provided an overview of the work undertaken by North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust's Looked After Children (LAC) Service, in order to ensure that health assessments, associated plans and relevant health information, for looked after children reviews was provided in line with requirements identified in the statutory guidance - Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children.

Members were provided with compliance data across Initial Health Assessments, Health Assessment Reviews and Dental Assessments.

It was explained that the LAC Team was making significant progress in identifying the unmet health needs of children and young People coming into care and a new Clinical Commissioning Group service specification would enable the LAC Nurses to target these areas.

It was explained that to address compliance of Review Health Assessments the existing Standard Operational Procedure had been reviewed and updated. More recently an escalation Pathway was being sent with every out of area request, so that all agencies were aware of expected timescales to respond and actions the Trust LAC Team would take if the review could not be completed within timescales.

Discussion:

- it was noted that moving forward it would be possible to collect more information about health needs. This type of information was likely to be available from May 2019. A report on health issues identified could be provided to the Board's June meeting.

- Comparative data was difficult to source.
- the Board recognized the value of health assessments and the good outcomes for children they often provided. However, it was felt that the structure of the assessments were very prescriptive. It was queried if there could be a different approach, developed through discussions with LAC. It was submitted that assessments needed to provide a more meaningful interaction.
- there were different needs for different age groups.

It was agreed that issues around the review health assessments (RHAs) should be remitted to the 0-19 Governance Board which was comprised of SBC Public Health, Children's Services and HaST CCG. This would provide an opportunity for further discussion around the quality, impact and outcomes of RHAs, rather than just compliance with timescales. It was suggested that the Governance Board could also establish a working group to plan the reshaping of the health assessments, seek the views of children, young people and their carers and ensure that data was able to be captured at a population level to help build a picture of health needs of the Children in our Care and inform future commissioning of support services.

RESOLVED that:

1. the update and discussion be noted and a further report identifying the types of health issues identified within LAC be provided to the Board's June meeting.
2. that issues raised by the Board be further discussed at the 0 -19 Governance Board, as described above.

**CPB
38/18**

Children in Our Care Strategic Group Update

Consideration was given to an update on discussions at the Children in Our Care Strategic Group (CiOCSG)

It was explained that the Group had discussed the following issues at its meeting held on 4 April 2019:

- Draft Sufficiency Statement - the Board agreed that the action plan being developed would be provided to the Board's next meeting, for consideration and sign off.
- CiOC Health Assessments - discussed by the Corporate Parenting Board in the previous item.
- CiOCSG Action Plan - this had been update.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and the Sufficiency Statement draft action plan be presented at the Board's next meeting.

**CPB
39/18**

Care Leavers Offer

The Board considered a report that provided detail of guidance and legislation outlining the duties for local authorities to support care leavers, to be known as the care leaver's local offer.

The report also outlined the current care leavers local offer and plans for the development of that offer.

Members considered the report and were happy with the progress being made.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and progress endorsed.

**CPB
40/18**

CAMHS Contract

Consideration was given to a report that provided a brief overview, in order to offer a level of assurance to the Board, on the way in which the Council identified and managed the emotional and mental health needs of the children in our care and the value of the commissioned service, for looked after children, from CAMHS.

Members were informed that it was considered that the information provided, in the report, demonstrated that the Council had robust systems in place to identify, monitor and meet the emotional and mental health needs of the children in our care. The approach taken was from a whole system perspective which aimed to support children by having carers and workers trained and skilled in identifying and supporting emotional and mental health and provided support to the children and those caring for them.

The contract in place was intended to enhance the service to children and young people and it felt that the provider was delivering a high quality service to those children and carers that they were working with and there were positive outcomes for them.

The ongoing review of services was considering how the Council delivered future services and, whilst this continued, the arrangements with the CAMHS would remain in place to ensure that the Council could still meet the needs of the children in our care.

Members were keen to ensure that there was a range of options to meet children's needs. Members also wanted children to help develop available options. It was agreed that the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire and Health Needs Assessments could be utilized in this regard, to help guide commissioning.

Members indicated that they did feel assured by the report and discussion.

RESOLVED that:

1. the update and discussion be noted.
2. given the update and discussion, including the potential additional work identified, around the SDQ and HNAs, it be noted that the Board did feel

assured by current, and developing arrangements associated with meeting the emotional and mental health needs of children in our care.

**CPB
41/18**

Forward Plan

Members considered the Board's Forward Plan and noted the following additions:

- Sufficiency Statement Action Plan - June 2019
- Health Needs Assessment, including update on any discussions via the 0 - 19 Board relating to meeting health needs - August 2019.