

AGENDA ITEM

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

6 DECEMBER 2019

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF Public Health.

Update to Corporate Parenting Board – Review Health Assessments.

SUMMARY

Following an update report to board in April 2019 regarding Review Health Assessments for Children in our Care, the 0-19 Governance board were asked to convene a working group to review the quality, impact and outcomes of RHAs, and the reshaping of health assessments. In addition, the 0-19 Governance board were asked to review how data could be captured at a population level to help build a picture of health needs of the Children in our Care. This is a joint report from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, North Tees Hartlepool Foundation Trust and Harrogate District Foundation Trust providing an update of progress to date and planned next steps.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To map out with social care, health and education the current process of how review health assessments and other review points align, and identify how collaborative working could be strengthened.
2. To review output from consultation with families and through autumn hub events, to inform themes to review with other groups in January (i.e. young people leaving care).
3. To share and review priorities identified from Children in our Care JSNA to inform the future shape of the health care assessment process.

DETAIL

1. Background

Statutory guidance "Promoting the Health of Looked after Children" (DFE, DOH 2015) sets out a framework for the delivery of care to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people in the care system. The guidance outlines that local authorities have a duty to promote the welfare of Looked After Children, while Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS England have statutory duties to cooperate with requests from the local authority to undertake health assessments and provide support services to Looked After Children. In addition, the guidance states that all children and young people are required to have a holistic health review upon entering care, and a review health assessment twice a year for children under 5 years and annually for children and young people 5 years and over.

Currently, (2019-2020) the 0-19 Growing Healthy Service provided by Harrogate District Foundation Trust are commissioned to carry out review health assessments by Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), with quality assurance provided by North Tees Hartlepool Foundation Trust safeguarding children team.

2. Working group

In October a working group was convened with representation from Public Health, SBC Virtual School, Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), North Tees Hartlepool Foundation Trust and (NTHFT) Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT) in order to review national best practice and the quality, impact and outcomes of review health assessments, and the reshaping of health assessments. To date the working group has carried out a number of tasks including:

- Identifying the scope of the population health needs currently identified within review health assessments for Children in our Care;
- Reviewing the current process of review health assessments, and how they are shared between partners;
- Consultation with families, children and young people.

3. Population Health Needs

During July – September NTHFT began to pilot new healthcare assessment forms, developed in partnership with young people and practitioners to allow the service to collect a wider range of health needs, and to improve the voice of the child / young person within the assessment. During this period, NTHFT reviewed the health needs that were identified during review health assessments, the main health needs identified included:

- Mental health needs (requiring CAMHS intervention) (19%);
- Overweight or obese (13%);
- Special educational needs or disability (7%);
- Speech, language and communication needs (requiring or receiving support from speech and language therapy (8%);
- Smoking (7%).

In addition, in November an audit was carried out by HDFT to review the presence of the child / young person voice within healthcare assessments. The audit sampled 20 review health assessments, and identified that 19 out of 20 reviews held good evidence of the child voice being present in the review through expressing their aspirations and needs.

During October, a joint strategic needs assessment working group led by SBC Integrated Strategy team, convened. The group identified the current sources of information available about the health and wellbeing needs Children in our Care, and the strategic issues relating to the health and wellbeing of this population. The JSNA will be available in early 2020.

4. Review Health Assessment Process

The current process of how review health assessments are completed, checked and shared was reviewed by the working group. It was identified that historically it has been difficult to measure the impact of health assessments and identify if health needs are addressed. In order to address this, NTHFT have recently implemented a 3 month review process to follow up if identified health needs have been supported, this will be shared with future working groups as the process has only recently been established.

The working group identified a number of review points for the health and wellbeing needs of Children in our Care including review health assessments, Education Health and Care Plans

(EHCP) and Personal Education Plans. While there are pathways in place to share review health assessments with other assessment points such as EHCP reviews the group identified that these pathways were not fully embedded, and that while there were opportunities for partners to work collaboratively, there was further scope to strengthen this collaboration to build a holistic picture of a child / young person's health and wellbeing needs.

5. Consultation with families, children and young people

Outside of the working group, the views of children, young people and families have been sought to understand the current process of review health assessments, this includes:

- Qualitative feedback as part of review health assessments taking place in November and December;
- Group mind mapping through virtual school Autumn Hub events.

Results from consultation will be reviewed by the working group in January, and used to inform further consultation (e.g. young people leaving care) to support the shaping of the future process.

6. Next steps

Next steps identified by the working group include:

- To map out with social care, health and education the current process of how review health assessments and other review points align, and identify how collaborative working could be strengthened.
- To review output from consultation with families and through autumn hub events, to inform themes to review with other groups in January (i.e. young people leaving care).
- To share and review priorities identified from Children in our Care JSNA to inform the future shape of the health care assessment process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. No direct financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. No associated legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. There are no current identified risks related to the project

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

10. Project focusing on impact on the health and wellbeing of Children in Our Care.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

11. Health and Wellbeing, Children and Young People.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. Consultation is being carried out with Children in Our Care as part of the project process

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