

Corporate Parenting Panel

25 March 2022

Annual Health Report



Report of Designated Nurse for Children Looked After, County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to introduce County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CDCCG) Annual Report for Children In Care covering the period of 2020 – 2021. The report outlines the activity that has been undertaken in NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as well as the challenges faced during the year in the work to support children in care and those care experienced.
- 2 The Annual Report is attached as Appendix 2

Executive summary

- 3 The report is produced in line with duties and responsibilities outlined in statutory guidance - Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked after Children which is issued to Local Authorities, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 .

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are required to:
 - (a) Note the contents of this report and raise any questions for discussion.

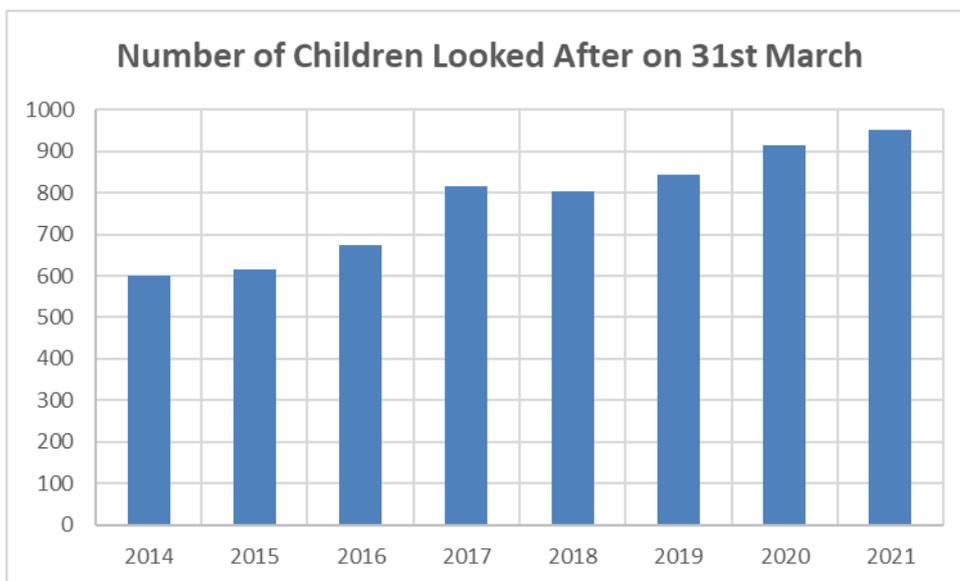
Background

- 5 It is the responsibility of Durham County Council, County Durham CCG and commissioned health services to identify and address the unmet health needs of Children who become Looked After. The expected outcome is that all Children who become Looked After and who are the responsibility of County Durham CCG will experience improved health and well-being and have an awareness on how their long-term health needs can be addressed as they become adults.
- 6 Most children enter the care system as a result of abuse and neglect. Although they have many of the same health issues as their peers, the extent of these is often greater because of their past adverse childhood experiences. For example, almost half of children in care have a diagnosable mental health disorder and two-thirds have special educational needs. Delays in identifying and meeting a child's emotional well-being and mental health needs can have far reaching effects on all aspects of their lives, including their chances of reaching their potential and leading happy and healthy lives as adults.
- 7 Meeting the health needs of children and young people in care requires a clear focus on easy access to services. This approach can be assisted by commissioning effective services, delivery through provider organisations and ensuring availability of individual practitioners to provide and co-ordinate care.
- 8 CCGs are the main commissioners of health services; however, all commissioners of health services should have appropriate arrangements and resources in place to meet the physical and mental health needs of children in care.
- 9 CDCCG commission:
 - (a) County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) to provide:
 - (i) Medical services for Children in Care and those with a plan of adoption
 - (ii) Coordination of all health assessments
 - (iii) Review Health Assessments (RHAs) for County Durham children living out of the Local Authority boundary but within a 20 mile radius
 - (b) Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) to provide:

- (i) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to support children and young people with mental health difficulties.

- 10 County Durham Local Authority Public Health commission Review Health Assessments for County Durham children living within the Local Authority boundary from Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) who provide the Healthy Child 0-25 Service.
- 11 Children in Care reports are presented to the Quality Committee on a bi-monthly basis to appraise the CCG of current activity and developments and include performance reports for NHS commissioned health services against the specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- 12 CCGs are required to provide resources to support the provision of a service for children in care. The amount of resource required is clearly defined in the Looked After Children: roles and competencies of healthcare staff. In November 2020 a 0.76 WTE dedicated Designated Nurse for Children in Care was welcomed into the children in care team.
- 13 The overall number of CiC for Durham has remained above the national average per 10,000 population. As of the 31st of March 2020, the number of CiC per 10,000 was 90 compared with the average for England which is 67 per 10,000.

Number of Durham County Children In Care 2014 – 2021



- 14 Whilst the end of year figures above provides a general overview, consideration must be given to children who may enter and leave the care system throughout the year so the total number of children cared for over each period defined above will be higher.

Conclusion

- 15 This annual report will provide an overview of the CiC population both nationally and locally and outline the performance of NHS commissioned services during 2020-21.
- 16 The numbers of Durham CiC have continued to increase year on year with 2020-21 seeing further increases. The resources required to deliver a quality service to this cohort of children will require continued evaluation to ensure this is not compromised.
- 17 There has been unprecedented challenges on all services as a direct result of the COVID Pandemic. Despite this, the services delivered to children in care have continued to be delivered overall.

Author

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Designated Nurse for Children In Care

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The report is produced in line with duties and responsibilities outlined in statutory guidance - Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked after Children which is issued to Local Authorities, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The needs of all young people are considered on an individual basis.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

All children have the right to the best possible health.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

Staffing information is contained in Appendix 2

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Non-adherence to statutory duty.

Procurement

None.