

Corporate Parenting Panel

31 March 2023

Annual Health Report



Report of Designated Nurse for Children in Care, County Durham Clinical Commissioning Groupⁱ

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 2021–2022. 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 CDCCG Annual Report for 2021-2022 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.

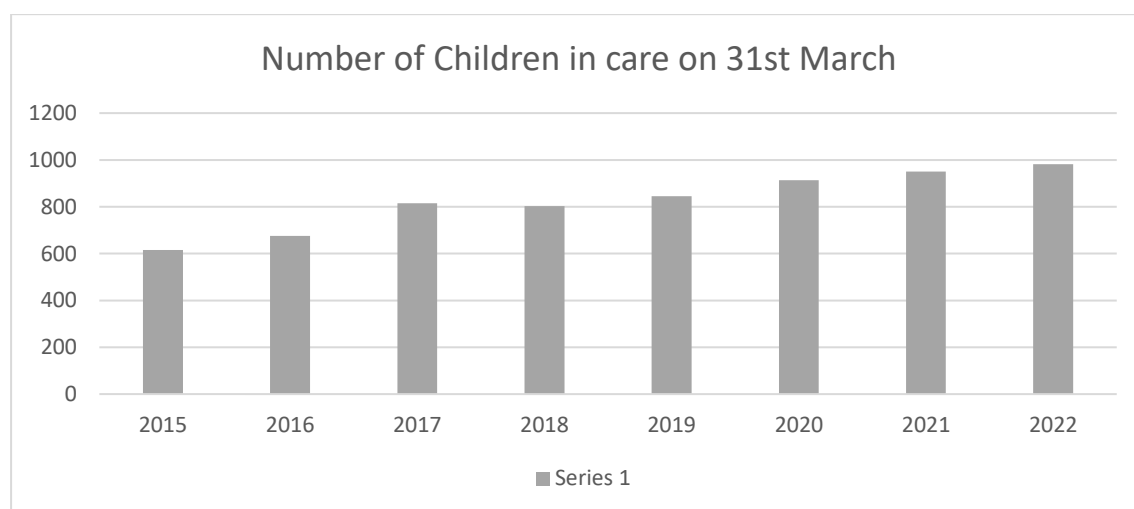
Background

- 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.
- 6 Most children enter the care system as a result of abuse or neglect and although they may have many of the same health issues as their peers, the extent of these is often greater because of their adverse childhood experiences. It is known that 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 prevent them from living 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 primarily commission 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. The Designated Nurse for Children in Care resource was increased in 2021-2022 to 1.5 wte.
- 13 The overall number of children in care for Durham has remained above the national average per 10,000 population.

Number of Durham County Children In Care 2015 – 2022



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

Conclusion

- 15 The annual report provides an overview of the CiC population and outlines the performance of NHS commissioned services during 2021-2022.
- 16 The numbers of children in care within Durham have continued to increase year on year with 2021-2022 seeing further increases. Resources to deliver a quality service to this cohort of children will require continued evaluation to ensure this is not compromised.
- 17 Services to support children in care have continued to be delivered effectively despite the unprecedented challenges that arose during the Covid pandemic in 2020 and which continued throughout 2021-2022.

Authors

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Designated Nurse(s) 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.

ⁱ In 2022 County Durham CCG transitioned into the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board [NENC ICB]