

Corporate Parenting Panel

29 September 2023

Annual Health Update



Health Update of the Designated Nurse for Children in Care, North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board [NENC ICB]¹ - Durham

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Update

- 1 This paper will provide an annual update from NENC ICB for Durham Children in Care covering the period of 2022 –2023. The report outlines the activity undertaken in NENC ICB, as well as the challenges faced during the year in the work to support Children in Care and those who are care experienced.
- 2 The annual update is included as Appendix 2

Executive summary

- 3 This is a local update for Durham Corporate Parenting Panel; an annual report for the 12 local authorities within the NENC ICB footprint will be produced centrally in line with duties and responsibilities outlined in the statutory guidance; *Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked after Children* which is issued to the NHS and Local Authorities under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004.
- 4 ICBs are required to provide resources to support the provision of a service for Children in Care as defined in the Looked After Children: Roles and Competencies of Healthcare Staff [Dec 2020].

Recommendation(s)

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

Background

- 6 It is the responsibility of Durham County Council and NENC ICB commissioned health services to recognise and respond to the unmet health needs of Durham Children in Care. The expected outcome is for all Durham Children in Care to experience improved health and well-being and have an awareness on how their long-term health needs can be addressed as they become adults.
- 7 Although many children enter the care system because of abuse and neglect, they have many of the same health issues as their peers. The extent of these can be greater because of their adverse childhood experiences. It is known that almost half of Children in Care have a mental health disorder and two-thirds have special educational needs. Delays in recognising and responding to a child's emotional well-being and mental health needs can negatively impact on their chances of reaching their full potential to lead happy and healthy lives as adults.
- 8 Children in Care and care experienced young people need easy access to services so their health needs can be met; this must be assisted by commissioning effective services to provide and co-ordinate high quality care.
- 9 ICBs 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.
- 10 NENC ICB commission:
 - (a) County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) to provide:
 - (i) Medical services for Children in Care and those with a plan for adoption.
 - (ii) Coordination of all health assessments [initial and review].
 - (iii) Review Health Assessments [RHAs] for Durham children living out of the local authority boundary but within a 20-mile radius.
 - (iv) Review Health Assessments for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children [UASC].
 - (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.
 - (c) Durham Local Authority Public Health commission Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) 0-25 service to provide:

- (i) Review health assessments for Durham Children in Care living within the local authority boundary.

Conclusion

- 11 The annual update provides an overview of the CiC population both nationally and locally and outlines the performance of NENC ICB commissioned services during 2022-2023.
- 12 The numbers of Children in Care including UASC within Durham have continued to increase year on year with 2022-2023 seeing further increases. The resources required to deliver a quality service to this cohort of children will require continued evaluation to ensure service provision is not compromised.

Author

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

This report is written 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 individual needs of all young people are considered.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

All children have the right to the best possible health.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

Staffing information is included in Appendix 2

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Non-adherence to statutory duty.

Procurement

None.