

Report To:	Medway Corporate Parenting Board
Date:	12th May 2021
Subject:	Looked after Children Health Report (incl Quarter 3 data)
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Introduction

Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children Statutory Guidance (March 2015) stipulates that all commissioners of health services should have appropriate arrangements and resources in place to meet the physical and mental health needs of looked after children. CCGs must be able to access the expertise of a designated doctor and nurse for looked after children; the CCG retains responsibility for looked after children who are placed out of area and ensure that their care continues uninterrupted and they must ensure that arrangements are in place for smooth transition into adult care.

1. Ofsted: What needs to improve

Recommendation 9: The Strategic relationship with health services, and operational delivery across a range of health functions, to support children and young people in care and care leavers.

1.1 Initial Health Assessments

Improvement in the timeliness of initial health assessments for our children placed in Medway can be seen below in the section on Medway Community Healthcare. However, the timeliness for initial health assessments for our children placed out of area remains low.

1.2 Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

The CCG is commissioning a new bespoke mental health and emotional well-being service for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People. The service will provide a timely, effective, evidenced based range of therapeutic interventions and psychoeducational support in both group and individual formats. The service is being funded by the Kent and Medway Emotional wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation monies.

A market engagement event has taken place; the event was attended by six providers, including The Children's Society and The Refugee Council. The next stage of the process will be to finalise the service specification and issue the tender on the Kent Business Portal. Currently the expectation is that the service will go live in November.

1.3 Health histories for care leavers

Health histories are compiled by the specialist nursing team. All young people coming up to their 18th birthday are provided with their health history. A copy is sent to the GP to be held with their medical record and a copy, with consent from the young person, is sent to the social worker to be added to their social care file.

In quarter 3 Medway Community Health report that 100% of health histories due were completed.

1.4 Health Offer to Care Leavers

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to improve the health offer to our care experienced young people. Within the specialist nursing team a new pathway has been put in place which extends the support offered by the team to all young people to the age of 19 years.

In addition a range of public health services will be providing support and advice to both our young people, social workers and personal advisors. As society starts to emerge from the COVID restrictions a number of meetings, interventions and workshops will take place in the Hub in Stood.

2. Specialist Looked after Children Health Team

Medway CCG commissions Medway Community Healthcare to provide the looked after children specialist team that undertakes the statutory health assessments and other work as detailed in the statutory guidance.

2.1 Initial Health Assessments (IHAs)

‘The statutory timeframe to complete Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) for children and young people who are looked after is within 20 working days of them entering care.’

Initial health assessments are part of an on-going process of care planning which provides a view of looked after children’s health on becoming looked after. A report and health care plan that becomes integral to managing each child’s health is completed to address existing and previously undiagnosed health concerns. The inability or delays in completing IHAs result in failure to adequately meet the health needs of these children.

The agreed CCG KPI for the completion of IHAs is 85% within the statutory timeframe. Quarter 3 data shows a completion rate of 72% within this timeframe; this is 23% higher than in Quarter 2.

During quarter 3, five referrals breached the timeframe; the breaches were all for CYP placed out of area. The reasons given were:

- 1 incomplete paperwork
- 3 CYP not brought for their appointment
- 1 lack of clinical capacity

	Number of referrals requiring IHA	Number of IHAs completed within timescales	KPI compliance	MOLA: Number of referrals requiring IHA	MOLA: Number of IHAs completed within timescales	MOLA: KPI compliance	Combined: Number of referrals requiring IHA	Combined: Number of IHAs completed within timescales	Combined: KPI compliance
Quarter 3	9	9	100%	9	4	44%	18	13	72%

2.2 Review Health Assessments (RHAs)

A Review Health Assessment is required every year for children and young people over the age of 5 years who are looked after and every six months for children under the age of 5 years.

The agreed CCG KPI for the completion of review health assessments (RHAs) is for 95% to be continuously in date. Quarter 3 data shows a completion rate of 81% for RHAs on children aged 0-5 years, which is 7% lower than quarter 2.

For RHAs on children and young people aged over 5 years performance is 79%, which is 10% lower than quarter 2.

During quarter 3, 28 referrals breached the timescale, of these 16 were CYP placed out of area. The reasons given for the breaches:

- 4 appointments cancelled by carer
- 1 appointment rebooked at the request of the carer
- 1 late request for assessment
- 3 appointments declined by carer
- 6 appointments declined by young person
- 4 CYP not brought to their appointment
- 9 lack of clinic capacity (all for CYP placed out of area)

	Number of RHAs due	Number of RHAs completed within timescales	KPI compliance	MOLA: Number of RHAs due	MOLA: Number of RHAs completed within timescales	MOLA: KPI compliance	Combined: Number of RHAs due	Combined: Number of RHAs completed within timescales	Combined: KPI compliance
Quarter 3- Under 5	28	21	75%	19	17	89%	47	38	81%
Quarter 3- Over 5	55	50	91%	36	22	61%	91	72	79%
Quarter 3- combined	83	71	86%	55	39	71%	138	110	80%

3. Initial Health Assessment Compliance Data Audit

The KPI compliance for Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) reported by the Medway Council performance team to the Corporate Parenting Board and Children's Improvement Board, was significantly different to that reported by Medway Community Healthcare (MCH) to the CCG. On examination of the data it was found that both sources of data contained some discrepancies which required clarification. The statutory timeframe for initial health assessments of 20 working days (28 calendar days) was not being applied consistently across both sources of data.

Three months of data was audited to identify discrepancies, which were raised with MCH and Medway Council for clarification purposes. This enabled the CCG designated team to build a picture of where discrepancies were commonly occurring within the data, how these affect the reporting, and how they might be minimised in future.

Three distinct themes emerged from the data provided by Medway Council and MCH.

- Theme 1: Missing names
- Theme 2: Attributing requests for initial health assessments to different months
- Theme 3: Mismatch of data (including dates)

The data audit has made five recommendations to address the issues found. The recommendations include a standard operating procedure and recording day one of the timeframe as the day the CYP starts their care journey.

Monitoring of the data is on-going.

End of Report.

22nd April 2021