

Health of Children in Care and Care Leavers

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This service is provided for Fareham and Gosport CCG, North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG,
North Hampshire CCG, South Eastern Hampshire CCG and West Hampshire CCG

Quality services, better health



Health of Children in Care

- **Dental Health:** No issues accessing an NHS Dentists for children in care (CIC) in Hampshire
- NHS England Wessex Public Health Consultant in Dental Health has developed a “Maintaining Oral Health” fact sheet to which all foster carers have access
- Dental appointments are recorded on all health assessment paperwork which is submitted to children services
- **Immunisation Uptake Rates:** Once health are notified of a child coming into care a summary of the immunisations are obtained and sent to the child's Social Worker for inclusion on the ICS system
- If a child is missing immunisation a matrix against their age is applied to identify what is required to catch up - some vaccines such as flu if missed means that children will always have an incomplete immunisation record as a catch is not an option.



- **Statutory Health Assessments:**

- **Initial Health Assessments-** Required to be undertaken within 28 days of coming into care by a medical practitioner (Dr)

Currently:

- Operating a GP Hub model across Hampshire - The Hubs have received encouraging reviews from foster carers, children and clinicians, with foster carers reporting very positive experiences around quality
- From receipt of correct paperwork to completion of the health assessment for Hampshire children placed in Hampshire- 89% achieved in timescales
- This is more challenging for those placed out of Hampshire as there is a national issue with capacity of services around the country



- **Statutory Health Assessments:**

- **Review Health Assessments-** are undertaken six monthly on children under four years of age and annually on 5-18 year olds. These can be undertaken by nurses, midwives and health visitors.

Currently:

- Whole system is currently under review from children services requests to health provider delivery in Hampshire to improve efficiency and sustainability – currently a recognised challenge around increasing demand
- Implementation of “Health Questionnaire” to be used with those CIC in long term stable placements aged 9 year olds and older
- Looking to enable children to be seen in school, be allowed to attend late to school or go home early to enable the health assessment to occur.



- **Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (S & D Qs)**
- Process initiated by Children Services if child 4 to 16 years of age is to remain in care for more than 2 months following 1st Statutory Review. Repeated at 12 months in care. Outcome detail from the questionnaire should be shared with both Education and Health to inform their plans. First questionnaire completed by the carer and depending on result is triangulated with the school and the child.

Currently:

- Four statistical neighbours to Hampshire County: Worcestershire, Berkshire, Cambridge and Somerset report similar return rates for the foster carers questionnaire
- Two statistical neighbours manage the process through Children Services similar to Hampshire and two via their LAC health teams



- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)**- This service is commissioned by Children and Maternity Commissioning Collaborative for the 5 CCGs for Hampshire. The current provider is Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Currently:

- Specific CiC lead in the Hampshire CAMHS organisation
- CAMHS have developed care pathways for transition
- There are specific referral criteria for prioritisation of CiC into the service

Overview and CQC inspection ratings

Overall Good Read overall summary	Safe	Good ●
	Effective	Good ●
	Caring	Outstanding ☆
	Responsive	Good ●
	Well-led	Good ●

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Care Leavers Health

- Need support from PAs to register as an adult if changing practice for GP and Dentist
- Dental care will cost as per other patients unless they have an exemption e.g. receiving low income benefits; under 19 and in full-time education; a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate or a valid HC2 certificate
- Transition into adult health services can be problematic as thresholds are different



Work currently being undertaken by Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse in relation to Care Leavers

- Survey with all Hampshire Care Leavers about “Read Code” “flagging” on Primary Care medical records which identify they are a care leaver
- Development of a strategy to support the health of children in care and care leavers following feedback from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) safeguarding conference and in light of the Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Information leaflet/website content/app use on supporting care leavers health
- Identification and development of transition pathways to support children in care into adult services

