

Looked After Children Health Update to the Corporate Parenting Board

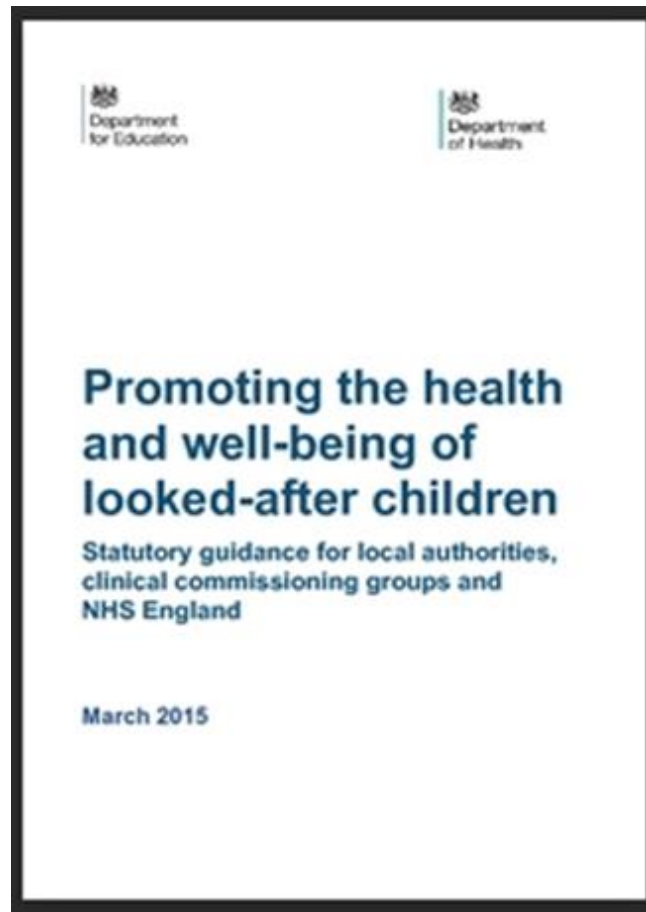
8th November 2023

Melissa Phillips Designated Doctor for Looked after Children

Vicky Fraser- Senior Designated Nurses for Looked After Children



Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children



What is a looked after children's health assessment?

The statutory health assessment should address the areas specified in section 1 of Schedule 1 of the care planning regulations. These areas are:

- the child's state of health, including physical, emotional and mental health
- the child's health history including, as far as practicable, his or her family's health history
- the effect of the child's health history on his or her development
- existing arrangements for the child's health and dental care appropriate to their needs, which must include
 - routine checks of the child's general state of health, including dental health
 - treatment and monitoring for identified health (including physical, emotional and mental health) or dental care needs
 - preventive measures such as vaccination and immunisation
 - screening for defects of vision or hearing
 - advice and guidance on promoting health and effective personal care
 - any planned changes to the arrangements
 - the role of the appropriate person, such as a foster carer, residential social worker, school nurse or teacher, and of any other person who cares for the child in promoting his or her health.

What do we know about the health of looked after children? Why do they need additional health support?

- 70% more likely to die prematurely.
- Seven times more likely to die before aged 25.
- Improvements in childhood mortality in last 40-50 years not mirrored in children in care.
- 50% children in care suffer from mental illness.
- Increase in Developmental Delay and need for behavioural support.
- Increase in physical health problems that extends into adulthood.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Health

41% of UASC have an Infectious Disease needing treatment UCL 2022

- 25% Latent TB
- 13% Schistosomiasis
- 10% gut parasites
- 6% Hepatitis B
- 20% Sexually assaulted
- 40% of girls are suspected victims of trafficking
- 50% scars associated with torture/abuse
- Suicide rate 51.2 per 100 000 (host population 6.1 per 100 000)

Current data (at end of Quarter 2- June 2023)

- 1847 Hampshire looked after children
- This is an increase of 108 from June 2022 (1739)
- Increase due to UASC from 134 to 231 (June 22 – June 23)
- 730 living out of area – approx. 40%.
- 132 looked after children placed in Hampshire from other LAs (Q2)
- 10-15 IHAs needed each week

Health Assessments

- LA Performance Indicator = timeliness of health assessments being held where a child was looked after for 12 months or more. Target is 85%.
- Hampshire currently at 76% completion (end August 2023). There was a positive small progress from Jan / Feb 2023 up to 79%, but due to the impact of GP leave during August this has again dropped to 76%.
- Additional funding to address the backlog of RHAs was given to HHFT and all backlog now cleared. This resource has now been allocated to complete out of county overdue RHAs.
- CSD have embedded a thorough process for RHAs ensuring that paperwork is completed and sent to Health colleagues in a timely way. This has resulted in improved performance for RHAs
- CSD now have additional admin to support the same process being embedded for IHAs (from Sept 2023).
- As of 20/9/23 there were 210 appointments waiting with GP Hub, Southern Health, HHFT and out of area for completion and a further 83 that have been booked.
- The volume of IHAs is predicted to increase with the new process being embedded in CSD. 3 additional GPs have been recruited to the IHA Hub who will be offering a regular a slot (x10 additional appointments each week)



Dental Checks

- Performance Indicator = timeliness of dental checks being held where the child is looked after for 12 months or more. Target is 85%.
- Hampshire currently at 57.9% completion (end August 2023).
- All IHAs and RHAs must include the date of the last dental appointment and identify any gaps. Actions to address gaps are included in the health plans.
- CSD Administrators will record date on the child's electronic record
- Additional dental resource across the South East Region – limited in Hampshire
- To be explored with new Dental Lead in the ICB (previously at region but now delegated to ICB)



Immunisations

- Performance Indicator = timeliness of immunisations being completed where the child is looked after for 12 months or more. Target is 85%.
- Hampshire currently at 81.80% (excluding flu and UASC) completion, but 50.5% (including flu) (end August 2023).
- Health assessments must include the immunisation details and identify any gaps. Actions to address gaps are included in the health plans.
- Hampshire records each immunisation, and the date it was administered, for each child it is responsible for in our Social Care system. It allows us to report immunisations at a more granular level, allowing the possibility for in-depth analysis. This goes beyond the statutory requirement of providing a yes/no response for each child being up to date with immunisations. However, it does mean we are introducing additional steps in the recording process, which may have an impact on performance reporting.
- This is how we know that it is the low numbers of flu vaccinations that brings our performance down.



Progress

- **December 2022** - ICB gave one year of funding to HHFT for a specialist nurse and administrative support to work closely with CSD to address the RHA backlog. Backlog now cleared to date for children living in Hampshire.
- **January 2023** – Improved joint working. Bi-weekly ‘Keeping in Touch’ meetings, Looked after Children Multi Agency Service Improvement Forum established.
- **January 2023** - Ofsted Focused Visit. Timeliness of initial and review health assessments needs to improve. Joint Action Plan in progress and reviewed regularly. CSD daily status report created.
- **May 2023** – Hub GP Training Day.
- **July 2023** - ICB Deputy Director for Children's Care appointed.
- **July 2023** - 'Lite Bite' training led by Designated Doctor attended by 43 social workers and foster carers.
- **July 2023** – use of LA venues for health assessments.
- **August 2023** – SHFT Specialist Nurses supporting Foster Carer Training.
- **September 2023** – Senior Transformation Manager will hold health offer for looked after children and those who are care experienced in portfolio for the ICB. Plan to review commissioned services for Looked after Children across the ICB footprint.
- **September 2023** - CSD now have centralised admin to support the IHA referral process.
- **September 2023** - Andover Health Hub used as a venue for health assessments.
- **October 2023** - SHFT have recruited 2 additional Looked after Children Specialist Nurses.

Training Available and Contact Details

E learning for Health- free training (hyperlinks)

In these sessions, you will explore the evidence for the statement that looked after children 'have a higher level of health, mental health and health promotion needs than others of the same age' and look at how the Healthy Child Programme can meet these needs.

[Looked After Children Part 1 Challenges and Principles](#)

[Looked After Children Part 2: Influencing Factors and Outcomes of Care Journeys](#)

Designated Professionals Training Offer



Contact Us

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