

# RESPONDING TO THE HEALTH NEEDS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN BRENT 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

**Julia Blankson- Named Nurse for Looked After Children- Brent**  
**Ileen Ashitey- Interim Designated Nurse for Looked After Children -ICB**

# COLLABORATION

The CCG transitioned to the new Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Integrated Care Systems (ICS), on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022.

This includes the boroughs of: Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster

This model will facilitate joined up working between organisations, to ensure the consistency of safeguarding and LAC work.

The development of a single draft service specification for LAC services across NWL ICB.

The implementation of a NWL set of KPIs across the eight 8 boroughs .

## THE TEAM IN LAC HEALTH

Designated Nurse- Interim in place 0.6 WTE ICB

Designated Doctor-To be appointed ICB

Named Doctor- Recruitment in progress

Paediatric Consultants (X2) for LAC, EHCP, CDC and Safeguarding.

Medical Advisor for Adoption and Fostering – Temporary bank work till permanent recruitment is in place.

Named Nurse – 1 WTE in position

Specialist LAC Nurses- 2 WTE in position and recruitment in progress for an additional 1 WTE.

LAC administrators- 2 WTE - 1 on long term sick leave

Specialist Mental Health LAC Nurse, employed by CNWL Trust to support OOB placements, who works closely with LAC health provider team and social care.

# STATUTORY DUTIES

Initial health assessments (IHA) and care plans undertaken face to face.

Review health assessments (RHA) and care plans: undertaken face to face or virtual or telephone. Under 5's seen 6 monthly, 5-18 years seen annually and care leavers summaries provided.

Infectious disease screening continue to be completed for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Infection control measures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used as indicated, once Covid 19 regulations were relaxed.

Adoption for children and medical advice for adult health fostering .

## **PARTNERSHIP WORK**

The LAC Health Team contribute towards integrated working through diverse meetings and panels. Meetings are held virtually but moving towards face-to-face.

Combined Health Sub-group/Joint Health & Social Care LAC Quality Assurance Group meetings- bimonthly. Terms of reference currently under review.

Health and social care LAC meetings-monthly.

Local Partnership Meetings- bimonthly.

Strategy and professional meetings.

Tri-partite panels- Named Nurse to review access to the meeting.

Panels – Entry to Care Panel, Exploitation and Violence and Vulnerability Panels EVVP (incorporating sexual exploitation and missing children) and Residential Panels.

# CARE LEAVERS

## **Health resource booklet**

This continues to be distributed by Social Care alongside the final care leavers summary health assessment reports completed by the LAC Nurses.

## **Health Assessment Reports and Pathway**

The care leavers summary health assessments, reports and pathway is currently under review.

## **Audit**

A number of audits are planned for 2023, eg:  
Implementation of the health care plan recommendations for LAC and hearing the voice of care leavers

# UASC

## Health Assessment Reports and Pathway

The UASC health assessments, reports and pathway is currently under review.

## Audit

A number of audits are planned for 2023, eg: UASC data including their health needs and hearing the voice of UASC.

## WHAT IS WORKING WELL

Ongoing communication between LAC social care and LAC health.

Ongoing notifications of LAC changes from social care to health.

Health has distributed an updated IHA and RHA including adoption and fostering request process pathways for both health and social care to work from.

Health continue to provide training, email reminders to social care.

Significant improvements in the number of late, rejected and no BAAFs from social care (from approx. 70% high concern to 10 % concern).

Significant improvements in the number of appointments attended for assessments to be undertaken per month (currently ranging between 83-100%) due to improved timely BAAFs received and rebooking of appointments from non-attendances within the week.



# CHALLENGES

Review of the support services required for the emotional and mental wellbeing of LAC.

Waiting times for CAMHs affecting all partners working with LAC

Continuous work with social care on the receipt of age-appropriate IHA and RHA CoramBAAF forms in a timely and manner and for this to be maintained.

To maintain full complement of the LAC health team in order to manage the impact of the increased demands of the LAC service.

Out of borough LAC (outside of the M25) – IHA and RHA continue to be delayed due to issues beyond our control, eg: capacity issues.

# IMPROVEMENTS- HEALTHY SMILES: COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Initially a pilot referral mechanism for access to dental care for LAC who cannot be treated in local dental services. The service is now extended for an unknown period of time at this stage.

## **Referral criteria for healthy smiles service:**

Uncooperative child, severe anxiety, complex medical history, UASC, physical or learning disability and behavioural needs.

## **Areas covered:**

5 geographical areas by providers from Whittington, Kent, CLCH, Bromley and Kings services.

Information has been disseminated to Social Care and foster carers.

To date, the service has had a favourable outcome for LAC in addressing their dental health needs, especially those with complex needs and difficulty with obtaining a dentist.

LAC health team will be obtaining the data from the Healthy Smiles service and report at a later date.