

## **Update for the Corporate Parenting Panel on Health Assessments**

The Children Looked after (CLA) service pathway continues to prove challenging to implement. The CQC Review in January 2014 found progress was disappointingly slow and highlighted that the management of health services for CLA needed to be robust, quality assured and showing continuous improvement. The CLA health service is currently provided by two organisations, North West London Hospital Trust (NWLHT) and Ealing Hospital Trust (EHT) which has contributed to a fragmented service. The CLA Protocol for the pathway for Health Assessments has been reviewed and updated following the CQC Review and this involved Harrow Local Authority, EHT and NWLHT. The final version is due once the Paediatric Team at NWLHT has met with the Designated Nurse to discuss final comments and it is expected to be completed by mid-October. The paperwork used by the Local Authority has also been revised in order to make the process more streamlined. This was implemented in September 2014 the Review Health Assessment form change has improved the quality of the information from the Local Authority which has contributed to the Health Professional carrying out a much more holistic and informed health assessment. However the Health Assessments remain outside of the required timescale of best practice for many children and young people; this is due to multiple reasons and all partners involved in the pathway are working to improve performance with the Designated Professionals and Commissioners.

For the CLA Service there has been a challenge with data collection and this is on-going. Harrow CCG has been working with the Providers to improve the data collection through the contract matrix. There are regular meetings with the Providers and the Contracts team to analyse the data and identify areas where more work needs to be done. Harrow CCG also holds Safeguarding Assurance meetings with the Providers, Local Authority and LSCB every 6 weeks to look at the progress.

Following the CQC Review in January 2014 all Providers had to develop an Action Plan. NWLHT and EHT have combined their plan for the CLA Service. There has been some progress. The quality of both Initial Health Assessments and Review Health Assessments has improved greatly and work is on-going to ensure the health plans are Specific Measured Achievable Relevant Timely (SMART) and monitored. There is clear evidence of the child's voice within the assessments and more acknowledgement of the awareness of diversity and cultural needs.

Health Passports have been introduced to the Care Leavers. More recently a survey has been developed to use with the Health Passport to evaluate how the Care Leavers view the passport to ensure that it is a document that is valued by them. This will be commencing from September 2014. The CQC Action Plan has recently been presented to the Health and Well-Being Board to enable the Councillors to see the progress of all the actions.

As the Corporate Parenting Panel is aware there have been very serious concerns about the level of service provision currently provided in Harrow. As a result of this, Harrow CCG in partnership with Harrow Local Authority has been working with an alternative provider to look at transferring the service. There have been several meetings with the potential new provider, Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWL) involving representatives from both the Local Authority and Harrow CCG. A joint Service Level Agreement has been developed which has been shared with the provider who felt it was workable and that it contained nothing that was unexpected. One of the concerns for CNWL is that they will inherit a service that has been performing quite poorly for some time and it will take time to improve performance. As a result they are very keen to have targets set that are reasonable and achievable for the first year with an expectation that performance will improve steadily once any backlog has been dealt with.

There has been some discussion about the recruitment and appointment of both the Nurse post and the Designated Doctor post due to the national challenges of recruitment. There have been discussions within the CCG regarding interim arrangement to cover the Designated Doctor post and it has been reiterated to CNWL that this should not delay the new service arrangements.

There is every likelihood that the service will need more investment from both the Local Authority and Harrow CCG and this has been agreed in principle by both organisations. Harrow CCG is waiting to receive the Business Plan from CNWL which is due shortly for them to progress the change of service provider as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

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September 2014