

Update for Corporate Parenting Panel regarding Children Looked After (CLA) Health Service

As the Panel is aware the decision to transfer the CLA Service Provider to Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWLFT) was taken by Harrow CCG in agreement with the London Borough of Harrow in 2014. This paper has been produced to inform the Corporate Parenting Panel about the progress of this positive decision and to provide assurance regarding the transfer of the service and any identified risk to the CLA population in Harrow.

There has been considerable commitment by all partners involved with the new service model and it is expected that the service will be in place by the 1st June 2015. An agreed action plan for transferring the service has been developed by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) to transfer the service within the agreed timescales. A new Service Specification has been developed by Harrow CCG and the Local Authority that has been agreed by CNWL. The Service Specification very clearly defines the key performance indicators (KPI's) activity and pathway of care. The monitoring of performance and outcomes are clear and measureable and will be undertaken with regular reporting to the CCG and Local Authority. This will be presented at the Corporate Parenting Panel.

One of the biggest undertakings has been the recruitment of a new team. This has now been completed and the new CLA Health team, which will only cover Harrow, will be based in South Ruislip which will provide peer support with the Hillingdon CLA Team. The location is very close to Alexander Clinic in Harrow which will provide the clinical base for the CLA Team to carry out both Initial and Review Health Assessments. The team will also provide a weekly presence at the Civic Centre to support and integrate with Social Work Teams.

The team will consist of two senior Nurse Posts and a full time administrator. The Designated Doctor role will be supported by the current Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children in Harrow. A GP with a specialist interest (GPwSI) will be recruited to and be supervised by the Designated Doctor, as well as quality assuring the Initial Health Assessments. The Designated Nurse in Harrow will continue to work closely with and support the Health Team in addition to the quality assurance role relating to the Review Health Assessments.

Harrow CCG is very aware that the transition from one service to a new provider requires close monitoring and can be stressful for staff involved. As there are no permanent staff in post there are no TUPE transfer requirements. Monthly meetings are being held with the Designated Nurse, CCG representative, the Local Authority and CNWL to ensure a smooth and safe transfer and identification of problems and risks are managed proactively

The new provider has a well-established CLA Health team which has always worked closely with Hillingdon CCG and Hillingdon Local Authority, so the ethos of joint working to achieve better outcomes for children and young people in care is an embedded priority. Harrow CCG has a well-established Safeguarding Children Working Group which has representation from the Designated Professionals for Safeguarding Children, the Safeguarding Children Lead for the CCG, Commissioning Lead for the CCG and the Quality Group. These meetings are held every two weeks and the Designated CLA Professionals will be asked to attend these meetings to feedback directly to the CCG via the Quality, Safety and Clinical Risk committee.

Harrow CCG is also committed to working with the current provider of the service to ensure the service provision that is currently in place is of a high quality, and continues to regularly monitor current provision.

The Designated Nurses from both Harrow and Hillingdon are working together to define the CLA pathway and the paperwork that will be used. There will be as little change as possible whilst the service is embedded in Harrow and it is hoped that there will be learning best practice from both teams which will result in a holistic service being delivered to children and young people looked after by the London Borough of Harrow. Both commissioners and providers are committed to ensuring the delivery of a high quality service for this vulnerable group of children and young people.

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March 2015