



REPORT FOR: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date of Meeting: 7th October 2020

Subject: Information Report – Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Report

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Claire Eves, Associate Director of Outer London Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No

Wards affected: None - This is an Information report

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: Corporate Parenting is requested to note the report

Reason for Recommendation: This report sets out the delivery of health services to Harrow's Children Looked After (CLA) during April – August 2020 in line with the national guidance. The report reviews the service and includes clinical work undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Section 2 – Report

Report for Corporate Parenting Panel – Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Service Update During Covid-19

Initial Health Assessment (IHA) and Review Health Assessment (RHA) Activity

IHA's and RHA's April – June 2020	No	Exception
Total IHA's Due	28	
Total IHA's Completed	23	* 1 x issue with consent, 1 x young person in hospital, ** 2 x not required, 1 x in Youth Offending Institute
Total RHA's Due	38	
Total RHA's Completed	37	*** 1 x issue with consent.

IHA's and RHA's July – August 2020	No	Exception
Total IHA's Due	15	
Total IHA's Completed	11	****1 x not required, 3 x consent issues (have appointments but yet to be completed)
Total RHA's Due	34	
Total RHA's Completed	33	***** 1 x late request has an appointment

Harrow Children Looked After (CLA) Health Team Staffing

In February 2020 the GP with Specialist Interest resigned due to personal circumstances. Since then, we have attempted to recruit to this post on an ongoing basis. The Harrow CLA health team have adequately covered this vacancy by the regular use of Hillingdon Community Paediatricians. Additionally the service has used bank nurse time to meet service needs.

The Specialist Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow will be retiring and returning part time to the CLA health team in December 2020. The CLA Health team are in the process of recruiting for this post.

Dr Chauhan, GP/Designated Dr, is due to return from maternity leave late October 2020.

Performance

During the Covid-19 period performance data was suspended as per national guidance. The Harrow CLA health team can assure that all IHA and RHA requests were reviewed and completed. One case concerning a child with disabilities is currently under review.

Supervision and peer review

The CLA Health Team have the following supervision arrangements in place:

The Named Nurse and Interim Designated Doctor meet regularly to review and discuss cases, quality assure work undertaken and ensure consistently high-quality health assessments are undertaken by CNWL staff. The Named Nurse liaises with both the Designated Nurse and Interim Designated Doctor on the quality of all health assessments, particularly where there were concerns about those undertaken by other Providers. This liaison provides an opportunity to discuss any concerns, compliments, areas for development and strategic issues to be addressed.

The Interim Designated Dr continued to attend relevant strategic meetings as arranged by North West London Collaboration of CCG's.

The Harrow CLA team continues to be co-located with the Hillingdon Looked After Children (LAC) team and peer safeguarding supervision is undertaken for shared learning. Complex cases such as children at risk of sexual exploitation are discussed and time for reflection offered. Any safeguarding issues are also addressed with the CNWL Harrow Safeguarding Children Team.

The Named Nurse attends regular CNWL LAC Nurses Peer Review Supervision to reflect and share best practice. Child protection supervision is accessed via the Named Nurse for Safeguarding for Harrow. In January, the CLA team participated in a CNWL LAC Away Day with Hillingdon, Ealing, Camden and Milton Keynes teams to enhance communication across services and for information sharing.

The Named Nurse resumed attending safeguarding operational group meetings to discuss any issues relating to CLA within Harrow.

The Named Nurse ensures that the team's self-assessment of CQC key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) i.e. being safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led, are completed on a quarterly basis.

Clinical staff also receive support from external meetings in both CCG and provider roles:

- Quarterly North West London LAC Peer Group Meeting
- Quarterly London LAC Nurse Meeting
- Quarterly CoramBAAF London and SE Health Group
- Annual Royal College of Nursing (RCN) LAC Forum
- Annual CoramBAAF Conference

Peer Review

The Harrow CLA team had a joint peer review in combination with the Hillingdon LAC team in July 2019. Actions were identified to enhance the quality of the service delivered. All actions have been commenced. Some actions

were put on hold due to Covid-19 but this work has now resumed. A date for a further peer review is to be arranged.

Impact of Covid

The Harrow CLA service faced staffing challenges during this time, and the team combined resources with the Hillingdon LAC team to maximise overall capacity. One of the Harrow CLA team members was on maternity leave at that time. We were not able to recruit to a temporary cover contract for this post despite repeat advertising.

The reduction in doctor time, due to maternity leave, resulted in many Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) for Harrow being undertaken by the community paediatricians at CDC in Hillingdon. We were fortunate that during lockdown we had the opportunity to pool resources at this time. We further enhanced our offer during COVID by offering IHA's via telephone or Video calls with either a nurse or doctor. IHAs were prioritised above Review Health Assessments (RHAs) and the waiting list function on system 1 was used to keep track of those not seen face to face. The service will be able to track those CLA who may require earlier review once face to face clinics are restarted.

From April to August 2020 34 IHAs were completed for children looked after in Harrow. The numbers were reduced compared to the usual numbers of requests for IHA received and the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) coming to care very much reduced due to the travel restrictions. Most of the children coming into care were from local families, with a long history of neglect, for whom lack of school, and more time at home, precipitated crises in their families. Some came into care as their carers were ill with Covid-19.

From April to August 2020 70 RHAs were undertaken and these were prioritised using a RAG rating tool so that the most vulnerable children and young people were seen. Other vulnerable young people, care homes and foster carers were also contacted as required and all relevant information was shared with social care.

During the lockdown period the health assessments for young people placed out of borough were requested from the area in which the CLA was placed. Where the placing area was not able to complete health assessments due to redeployment of health teams, Harrow CLA team undertook the health assessments. Appointments for out of borough children placed in Harrow continued to be offered when their local teams could not complete them.

Issues contributing to the overall performance

Lockdown due to Covid-19 presented several challenges. This included the possibility of staff being redeployed both in the CLA health team and in Children Social Services. Children's social services were also transitioning to remote working.

In response to lockdown we liaised with the Head of Children's Services, CLA and UASC to ensure that the health needs of children were prioritised. CLA social care provided the health team with information highlighting their most vulnerable young people. This enabled the CLA health team to target resources according to demand. Contact was attempted to those young people considered to be at high risk or those known to be shielding. This included contact with semi-independent placements and carers, particularly for missing children, UASC, those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation /Child Sexual Exploitation or discussed at Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel (MASE).

In some cases where young children were highlighted to be at high risk their health assessments were brought forward. The CLA health team have participated in several LAC reviews and strategy meetings particularly concerning complex cases.

Meetings

The CLA health team have introduced a virtual weekly drop in session to enable social care staff to discuss complex cases with the CLA health team. The initial uptake was good however CLA health team are looking at ways of raising the profile of these sessions so that staff are aware of the support that is being offered.

The CLA health team are planning to attend team meetings within social care teams to raise the profile of the drop in session and to continue to promote the strong partnership working particularly since Children's social care service has transitioned to remote working.

The CLA health team have resumed fortnightly monitoring meetings via zoom to identify any issues relating to the completion of health reviews.

The CLA health team have resumed meetings with CAMH's, Harrow Horizon, Forensic CAMH's and the CLA manager to explore ways of developing a seamless process for identifying those vulnerable young children who are receiving mental health and wellbeing support.

The Specialist Nurse for Children has attended the Independent Review Officer (IRO) team meeting to promote the CLA Health service. The CLA health are looking at attending LAC review particularly concerning complex cases.

The fostering panel was temporarily suspended but resumed via the telephone. This has now become a virtual meeting. The CLA team continue to participate on the fostering panel.

The CLA health team continue to attend MASE meetings including following young people when necessary.

Out of borough health assessments and outreach work

In some instances where health assessments have not been able to be completed by CLA teams for children placed out of borough and beyond 20 miles from Harrow, the Harrow CLA health team have completed the health assessments to ensure that these children are reviewed.

Black lives matter

CNWL's trust values are compassion, respect, empowerment and partnership. The CLA health team promote and implement these values in all aspects of service delivery for children looked after in Harrow. The CLA health team undertake regular Equality and Diversity training and are up to date with mandatory requirements. The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network within CNWL work in partnership with the Trust to meet statutory duties regarding race equality, and help remove barriers that black and minority ethnic staff face in recruitment, development and promotion.

Feedback from service users

Some young people have welcomed telephoned health assessments and found it beneficial as opposed to face to face. In some cases where young people have been non-compliant in the past we have been able to

engage them in the assessment by completing this via the telephone and they have shared very important information, which otherwise may not have been shared.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not applicable – for information only

Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: __/__/__		
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date:		

* Delete the words “on behalf of the” if the report is cleared directly by the Chief Financial Officer / Monitoring Officer.

Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date:	

MANDATORY	
Ward Councillors notified:	NO, this is an information report only
EqIA carried out:	NO
EqIA cleared by:	N/A information report only

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers: N/A

Christine Nichols

Named Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow

21.9.20