

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

TITLE OF PAPER: **Multi Agency LAC Strategy**

DATE OF MEETING: **22 March 2010**

ORGANISATION/SUB GROUP: **NHS North Yorkshire and York**

RELATED CYPP IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY: **Safeguarding inspection**

RELATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S): **Health improvement of LAC**

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAPER:

- **Health needs of LAC complex and impact from Health, education and social care all partners have a part to play**
- **Details service reviews for 2010/2011**
- **Details areas of improvement for 2010/2011**

IMPACT ON RESOURCES:

Recommendation	Resource Type	Cost	Benefit

AUTHOUR: Jayne Richardson
 Head of Safeguarding
 NHS North Yorkshire and York

North Yorkshire Multi- Agency Looked After Children Health Strategy

1. Introduction

Children in the care of local authorities are one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

The term children in care includes: all children being looked after by a LA; those subject to a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989; and those looked after on a voluntary basis through an agreement with their parents under section 20 of that Act.

Improving the lives and health of children in care must involve all local partners and professionals including local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, foster carers, residential care workers, social workers, GPs and other health care practitioners and teachers.

2. Aim

To ensure that Looked After Children and Young People are physically, mentally, emotionally, and sexually healthy, enjoying healthy lifestyles, and are enabled to fulfil their potential

3. National Policy

Every Child Matters⁶ aims to ensure that every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of education failure, ill health, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, abuse and neglect, crime and anti-social behaviour among children and young people.

National Service Framework for Children, young People and Maternity Services⁷ sets national standards for the first time for children's health and social, which promote high quality, women and children-centred services and personalised care that meets the need of parents, children and their families.

Choosing Health, Making healthy choices easier⁸ sets out the Governments policy for improving health. Its approach respects the freedom of individual choice in a diverse, open and more questioning society. It recognises that whilst progress has been made it still remains that too many people and groups have been left behind or ignored in the past widening inequalities in health outcomes.

Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services⁹ sets out a vision which supports meeting the people's aspirations for independence and greater control over their lives, making services flexible and responsive to individual needs. It builds on previous work which puts people more in control and a shift in emphasis on prevention.

Healthy lives, brighter futures, brighter futures: The Strategy for children and young people's health

All the above guidance has led to the development of the Healthy Child Programmes for both 0-4 and 5- 19 year olds that identifies what all children should be eligible to receive to aid their development

4. Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks

The 'Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children released in November 2009 highlights the following key acts.

- Children's Act 1989
- Children's Act 2004
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Mental Health Act 2007
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

These give the framework for the approach and direction for Looked After Children in North Yorkshire.

5. National Context and health needs

Children come into care for different reasons. One third is in care by voluntary agreement with parents and two thirds are in care by court order. A small number of children are in care under short term emergency arrangement, including being remanded into care. Two thirds are in care following abuse or neglect, 4% because of disability, 8% because of absent parenting, and a quarter because of family difficulties(DCFS statistics).

National data on Looked After Children confirms they have very poor outcomes compared to their peers. In areas of health, evidence shows LAC have poorer access to advice, enter care with relatively worse levels of health and there are inconsistencies in the quality of health services provided for LAC "Promoting the health of looked after children" 2002 is statutory guidance on local authorities, has been revised as November 2009 to make it statutory on health bodies. Its aim is to improve the health care experience and out comes of looked after children. Children and young people who are looked after are amongst the most socially excluded groups in England and Wales. They have profoundly increased health needs in comparison with children and young people from comparable socio-economic backgrounds who have not needed to be taken into care. These greater needs however, often remain unmet. As a result, many children and young people who are looked after experience significant health inequalities and on leaving care experience very poor health, educational and social outcomes.

- 45% of LAC require services from CAMHS compared to 8% of children who are not LAC
- Twice as many LAC abuse alcohol and drugs compared to their peers who are not looked after.
- Only 8% of LAC achieve 5 or more grades A* to C at GCSE compared to 50% children who are not LAC
- 25% of young people in care are disabled
- 30% of young homeless people have been in care
- 23% of adult prisoners have been in care
- 38% of young prisoners have been in care
- There are greater numbers of deaths in children 16 -18 who are leaving care than in other age groups.

6. Local Context

It is expected that outcomes and improvements for Looked After Children will be carried out in line with the North Yorkshire Children and Young Peoples Plan and the NHS North Yorkshire and York Strategic Plan

The OFSTED and CQC inspection in September 2009 rated the services as adequate. The national focus on safeguarding and looked after children will be a key area for inspections for the next few years

As of 30th September 2009 there were 437 children looked after in North Yorkshire.

Age at 30th September 2009

	Boys	Girls
Under 1	9	8
1-4	36	27
5-9	50	26
10-15	110	80
16-17	51	40
18 and over	0	0
Totals	256	181

Category of need

Abuse or Neglect	253
Disability	24
Parental illness or disability	24
Family in acute stress	69
Family dysfunction	45
Sociably unacceptable behaviour	9
Low income	0
Absent parenting	13

Legal Status;

Interim care order	73
Care order	209
Freed for adoption	4
Placement order	5
Accommodation section 20	145
Police protection	0
Emergency placement order	0
Child assessment order	0
On remand	1
Detained in LA accommodation, under PACE	0
Supervision order	0

What the statistics above tell us that there is a higher proportion of boys looked after at present, The predominant reasons for being looked after are abuse or neglect. The legal status of a large portion of the children is a care order or accommodation, section 20. Although the numbers and age profile vary from quarter year to quarter year, the gender balance and pattern of causation of care status is fairly constant.

7. Latest Performance Information: Looked After Children and Care Leavers

The performance information here represents the most recent available data. In most cases the data relates to the end of quarter 3 (31 December) of the current performance year. This in-year data is not validated, but does present a more timely portrayal of the current position than does the 2008/09 outturn data.

Number of Looked After Children

- At 31 December 2009 the number of looked after children had increased to 468 from 405 at the end of 2008/09. This represents an increase of 15.6% at that point.
- At 31 December 2009 the number of looked after children per 10,000 population under age 18 increased to 38.2 from 33.1 at the end of 2008/09. The 2008/09 average for all authorities was 55.0.
- At 31 December 2009, 84.6% of looked after children aged 10-16 were in foster placements or placed for adoption. The North Yorkshire outturn figure for 2008/09 was 85.4%.
- At 31 December 2009, 7.7% of looked after children had been adopted during the year. The 2008/09 outturn figure for North Yorkshire was 6.6%.
- At 31 December 2009, 92 looked after children were placed out of county. The figure at the end of 2008/09 was 74.

Stability of Placements

- At 31 December 2009, 8.1% (38 out of 468) of looked after children had experienced three or more placements during the previous twelve months. The 2008/09 outturn figures were North Yorkshire 6.1%, statistical neighbours 11.2%, and all authorities 10.7%.
- At 31 December 2009, 67.5% (108 out of 160) of looked after children had experienced current placements lasting at least two years. The 2008/09 outturn figures were North Yorkshire 71.1%, statistical neighbours 66.8%, and all authorities 67.0%.

Timeliness of Placements

- At 31 December 2009, 76.9% of looked after children who had been adopted were adopted within twelve months of the decision to adopt. The 2008/09 outturn figures were North Yorkshire 87%, statistical neighbours 80.9%, and all authorities 75.8%.

Reviews of Looked After Children

- At 31 December 2009, 94.5% (430 out of 455) of looked after children reviews had been carried out within the required timescale. The 2008/09 outturn figures were North Yorkshire 96.0%, statistical neighbours 95.7%, and all authorities 90.9%.
- At 31 December 2009, 98.6% (353 out of 358) of reviews had included participation of looked after children. The North Yorkshire outturn figure for 2008/09 was 93.9%.

Educational Attainment

- In 2009, 50% (10 out of 20) of eligible looked after children achieved Level 4 in KS2 English. The 2008 figures were North Yorkshire 23.5%, statistical neighbours 39.3%, and all authorities 46.0%.
- In 2009, 40% (8 out of 20) of eligible looked after children achieved Level 4 in KS2 Maths. The 2008 figures were North Yorkshire 23.5%, statistical neighbours 44.0%, and all authorities 41.7%.
- In 2009, 7.4% (2 out of 27) of eligible looked after children achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C. The 2008 figure for North Yorkshire was 15.4%.
- In 2009, 5.4% (2 out of 37) of eligible looked after children achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C including English and Maths. The 2008 figure for North Yorkshire was 12.5%.

School Attendance

- At 31 December 2009, 9.7% (23 out of 236) looked after children had been absent from schooling for 25 days or more. The 2008 outturn figure for North Yorkshire was 12.9%.

Health

- At 31 December 2009, 61.7% of looked after children had received an annual health assessment and dental check-up during the previous twelve months. The 2008/09 outturn figure for North Yorkshire was 66.0%.
- In 2008/09, 37.1% of looked after children aged 0-5 years had up to date child health surveillance or child health promotion checks. The 2007/08 figure was 35.0%

Care Leavers

- At 31 December 2009, 92.7% (38 out of 41) care leavers were housed in suitable accommodation. The 2008/09 outturn figures were North Yorkshire 89.7%, statistical neighbours 91.5%, and all authorities 89.6%.
- At 31 December 2009, 51.2% (21 out of 41) care leavers were in education, training or employment. The 2008/09 outturn figures were North Yorkshire 67.9%, statistical neighbours 62.8%, and all authorities 63.0%.

8. Current Commissioned Services

All children are encouraged to access universal mainstream health services for children.

Specialist commissioned services;

- Specialist LAC Health team.

This health team co-ordinates initial health assessments and reviews of all looked after children as well as collating immunisation and dental data up to their 16th birthday. The team provides specialist input into residential children's homes promoting attendance at health checks and providing advice, support and learning opportunities, individually or in groups on health issues i.e. sexual health. The team also work difficult to reach children to engage them in health reviews and give health promotion advices. The team track, collate and record of out of area placed children's health reviews.

- Children's dental service

This service provides services to all children and young people who have had problems finding an NHS dentist, provide a specialist service for LDD children and young people to ensure urgent dental issues are address promptly. They are able to continue to provide services until an NHS dentist practice is available.

- CAMHS services

There is provision of comprehensive specialist CAMHS services across North Yorkshire. The service specifications for tier 2,3, and 4 specialist provision make LAC a priority needs group. Within the general specialist provision there is some dedicated psychology provision specifically for LAC. A full service review is to be undertaken in 2010/11

9. Development: What do we plan to do in 2010/11

- Budget established to increase access to venues for social care reviews.
- Develop innovative practice to enable young people to chair their own social care reviews.

- Completion of the child placement strategy, including a differentiated range of placements.
- The Young People's Council will launch the pledge and explore the broadening role to incorporated younger Looked After children and consultation with children and young people with LDD.
- Collation of an integrated dataset for the MALAP with the implementation of quarterly monitoring to inform planning.
- Implementation of the Staying Put grant to extend foster placements of children in Education, Employment or Training until they are 21.
- Implementation of the training plan for foster carers.
- Implementation of the independent review for foster carers.
- Implementation of Phase 2 Treatment Foster Care.
- Secure robust data sharing for the education of LAC.
- Annual celebration day for Looked After Children.
- Children's Service review of 0-19 which will give a clear picture of universal services available for all children.
- Service review of CAMH's services which will give a clear picture of local provision and specialist commissioned services
- Introduce S&D questionnaire into all health assessments for LAC prior to CAMH's referral
- Establish a core group to work at consistent approach of transition of LAC into adult services
- Work with the children's and young peoples council to establish a process for collation of children and their families views on health services for LAC
- Explore ways to track the use of universal services by LAC and ensure effective systems are in place to monitor non attendance.
- Establish a process to collect data and promote health engagement of 16-18 yr old young people.

10. Next Steps

It is recognised that further work is needed to develop this initial draft into a comprehensive review of the health of Looked After Children in North Yorkshire, of the health services available to them, and of the key contributions which can be made by a range of partners in health-related activities across the CYPP.

A more detailed report with the final proposals for the LAC Health Strategy be brought to the Children's Trust in May.

11. Approach to Implementation

It is expected that the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership will oversee on behalf of the Children's Trust Board progress to improve the health outcomes for Looked After Children and review the quarterly data and it's implications on achieving the desired outcomes, making necessary recommendations when action is required.

12. Recommendation

12.1 Members of the Trust Board are asked for their views on priorities they would wish to see addressed in the final strategy.

12.2 Progress to date is noted.