

Looked after children in Nottingham City – additional data

NHS England Data project

As part of funding received from NHS England in 2016 a working group has been in place and a revised data set has been agreed for our two health providers. This data set includes statutory key performance indicators and additional data that will improve outcomes for our looked after population. This data will include not only data around health assessments but also information about the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, care leavers, those with a disability and those in secure units.

Provider services are subject to regular service contract meeting where performance data is reviewed and mitigating factors recognised. In addition, areas requiring improvement are discussed and plans put in place and good areas of practice of celebrated. We recognise that these are challenging times for our provider services and that every effort is made by all to work collaboratively on areas that require improvement.

Local data

In addition to health assessments for Nottingham city looked after children we now comply with all requests for statutory health assessments for other local authority children (OLAC) placed within Nottingham city. It is worth noting that there has been a sharp increase in referrals for OLAC. This work may impact on the service delivery for Nottingham city looked after children. This is an area that is being monitored and reviewed within the service contract meetings.

Initial Health Assessments

It has to be acknowledged that locally we currently report on the Initial Health assessments (IHA) being completed within 20 working days from correct consent rather than to sharing the report, as per statutory guidance. It has to be acknowledged that the statutory timescales may not be achievable as an internal audit suggests that there is an average of 55 working days from a child entering care to the health provider receiving correct consent to instigate an IHA. This also impacts on the timeliness of the report being shared. We hope to work with the local authority to remedy this.

The data below demonstrates once the correct consent is received the number of IHAs completed within 20 days is excellent.

Table 1: Initial Health Assessments (including those placed out of area) 2017/18 (referral from Nottingham city local authority)

Total number and % of IHAs seen within 20 days of receiving correct consent		
Q1	42/45	93.3%
Q2	35/39	89.7%
Q3	40/43	93.0%
Q4	44/49	89.8%

Table 2: Initial Health Assessment 2017/18 (placed out of area)

Total number and % of IHAs seen within 20 days of receiving correct consent (It has to be acknowledged that our health provider has limited control over the performance of an external organisation who will be requested to undertake this IHA on our behalf)		
Q1	0	-
Q2	1/2	50.0%
Q3	1/2	50.0%
Q4	2/3	33.33%

Exceptions - IHAs

The reason for non-compliance with the 20 day standard are numerous, and often not within the control of the provider, such as not receiving the correct paperwork/consent from the local authority within timescales, placement changes occurring, discharges from care, carers or local authority cancelling appointments and young people refusing appointments.

Review Health Assessments (RHA)

Table 2: Review Health Assessments 2017/18 (under 5 years old)

Q1	17/39	44%
Q2	12/25	29%
Q3	28/31	90%
Q4	28/35	80%

Table 3: Review Health Assessments 2017/18 (over 5 years old)

Q1	36/72	39%
Q2	63/126	64%
Q3	83/120	69%
Q4	25/57	44%

The data above is not entirely reflective of the overall specialist CIC service due to the following mitigating factors:

- The current data does not separate the timescales for children and young people placed OOA which are often out of timescales due to the reliance on other areas to complete the assessments.
- For children with an adoption plan RHAs will be seen as a priority in time or early to accommodate the local authority/court deadlines
- Not receiving the correct paperwork/consent from the local authority within timescales
- Placement changes occurring
- Discharges from care
- Carers or local authority cancelling appointments
- Young people refusing appointments

Over the past 12 months there have been significant sickness and vacancies within the CIC nursing team which have been managed proactively however it has had some impact on service delivery.

Work has been undertaken to recruit to vacancies and increase capacity in the team. Risk assessments have been undertaken and an action plan is in place to address these issues and provide assurance.

The role of the designated professionals for looked after children, working on behalf of the city CCG have been further established over the past two years and are now actively involved in assuring the CCGs around performance and quality. Risks have been acknowledged and escalated appropriately to ensure the service is safe.

Vaccination and Immunisations

As part of the NHSE data project work is currently underway around capturing vaccination status on entering care and after being in care a year to reflect catch up programmes. This will be available from Q4.

Immunisation status is reviewed at each statutory health assessment and recommendations made to the social worker to ensure this are actioned by the carers. For children under 5 year olds the RHA will recommend booking with the GP. To support with older children we have a School age immunisation service that will be referred into directly at the RHA and contact details given to the young person or carer.

Dental

As part of the NHSE data project work is currently underway around capturing dental status from birth in line with recommendations from Public Health England. This will be available from Q4.

As above dental status is reviewed at each statutory health assessment and recommendations made to the social worker to ensure this is actioned by the carers.

Eyesight

As part of the NHSE data project work is currently underway around capturing sight status from 4 years of age, in line with recommendations from Public Health England. This will be available from Q4.