

### Children in Care health team

Local authorities, as the corporate parents, are responsible for ensuring that Children in care receive regular health checks (six monthly for children under the age of five and annually for those over the age of 5), dental checks and appropriate immunisations. Statutory health data for Children in Care is reported for children who have been in care for 12 months.

The Haringey Children in Care Health Team provide health advice to:

- Children and young people in care
- Carers
- Social workers and key workers
- Relevant partners working with Children in Care.

We currently have a team of 4 nurses, one adoption advisor and support from the community paediatric medical team from Whittington Health to complete health assessments. We are based at Tynemouth Road Health Centre in Tottenham.

Assessments include diagnosis, health management and promotion, referral and follow up. We participate in joint working with social care and provide advice and support to universal professionals including primary care, health visitors and school nursing. We advise GPs and other practitioners on outstanding immunisation and child health surveillance programmes for children. We also work with the local acute and wider community paediatric services.

Throughout the last year, the statutory function has been maintained and the quality of the service provided continued. Initial and Review health assessments (IHA and RHA) have mostly returned to face-to-face delivery.

Some virtual assessments continue for children and young people who may be hard to engage with an in-person appointment, this is assessed on an individual basis. If the assessment is refused a desktop assessment from a report which provides a health history and current health needs is used to inform the health review of the young person.

During 2020- 2021 the team conducted 520 Health assessments. 7 children due for assessments were not seen during this time. 3 have since been seen and 4 refused to be seen. 6 Initial assessments were completed for out of borough teams and 20 reviews for out of borough teams. 6 Initial assessments were completed by out of borough teams for Haringey children unable to travel to Haringey.

Type of appointment	Quarter 1	Quarter2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
IHA's	25	30	28 (2 seen virtually)	30
RHA's	119 (3 seen virtually)	101 (3 seen virtually)	103 (4 seen virtually)	84 (2 seen virtually)

The team provides health assessments for Haringey children living in or outside of Haringey. Approximately 81% of children live out of borough. Data is collected monthly on the timeliness of health assessments, and it is reported annually to Department of Education via social care. Quarterly Data is provided to commissioning via Whittington Health.

### **Health data for children in care for 12 months on 31.3.2022.**

- 96% of children in care for 12 months or more have had a health assessment. (Those in youth offending institutes not CIC prior to being remanded are not the responsibility of the CIC team).
- 77.7% have had a dental appointment. We are now able to refer to the healthy smile programme for children unable to see a dentist.
- 73% have up to date immunisations.
- 75.6% have had a strength and difficulty questionnaire completed. This is collected by First Step.

### **Challenges**

Within the last year we have faced some challenges. Since July 2021 we have had no Designated Doctor. Dr Fayrus Abusrewil left her post in August 2021 and two long term members of the administrative team gained promotions leaving our team. This has had a significant impact on the team and performance within the last two quarters as well as staff sickness. Many appointments booked had to be rescheduled due contact with or infection with Corona virus and we have all been affected nurses, Drs, children, and their carers.

There was a delay in health reports being circulated which was identified by an audit reported to the Whittington Health Serious Incident Executive Approval Group. An investigation took place, and it was highlighted to senior management within social care by the head of Haringey children and young people service on 13.5.2022. The incident involved 90 reports completed by Drs from Health assessments which had not being circulated. These assessments took place between November 21 and March 22. The backlog identified have now been distributed.

There has been an impact of reports not being shared which included a delay of referrals being made. Social workers and carers are invited to attend assessments so if they attended or spoke to the Dr completing the assessments, they were made aware of health issues at the time of the assessments for example, children who were not up to date with immunisations, requiring dental checks or referral to other services. Foster carers have since been contacted and follow up by GP or dentists or referrals have been made. A tracking system is now in place to ensure we can identify the timeliness of reports being circulated.

Dental screening rates are low but recovering – and there is a national scheme is in place to support these following concerns we raised nationally through our network. We are now able to refer to the healthy smile programme for children unable to see a dentist.

Immunisation rates are low some children not receiving the annual nasal Flu immunisation now required and many girls and boys aged 12-13 (born after 1.9.2006 have not had the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

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Designated Nurse CIC Haringey. 28.6.2022