

CLA Health Team update and Clinical Activity

Health assessments

The Haringey Children looked After (CLA) health team is required by statutory guidance to ensure that all children looked after by the Haringey Local Authority have an initial health assessment (IHA) within 20 days of becoming looked after, and thereafter every 6 months (under 5 years) or annually (over 5 years). Initial Health Assessments (IHA) for Looked After Children aged 0-18 are completed by The CLA medical team based at Tynemouth Rd Health centre. The review health assessments are completed by the CLA Health team, either at the clinic or where the child resides. Occasionally requests are sent to the local health team where the child has been placed by Haringey local authority.

The Plans and Key Priorities for 2022-2023 were:

To recruit a Designated and named Dr for Children in Care.

Aim for IHA report recommendations to be available for the first looked after Children review.

To secure funding for 1.0 full time equivalent CIC Nurse as per national guidance.

To raise the Immunisation uptake and dental check-ups of Children in Care.

Ensuring access to appropriate and timely mental health and emotional well-being.

Ensuring access to appropriate and timely health assessments, including neurodevelopmental, medical, and psychiatric assessments. This would include agreement across the area amongst the providers to prioritise our looked after children in line with their needs.

Ensuring collaborative working with Public Health teams to secure equitable provision for young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Activity and Data

CLA data is submitted quarterly via Whittington health to commissioning. The CLA Designated professionals across the NCL meet regularly and scrutinise and share the data for CLA. We have been recently discussing and reviewing ways of increasing performance across the teams and The CLA health team has been working with performance team and social care managers to increase the uptake of IHA medicals being completed within the timescale.

The CLA Administrator is responsible for booking the IHA appointments, however getting this to work efficiently depends on working proactively, to ensure paperwork / information is received and sent for the children and young people awaiting assessment. The appointments are arranged once the necessary documents and consent is received to complete the medical. Receiving the notifications of children entering care has improved.

Initial and Review health assessments in January 2023

In January 2023 15 children had Initial health assessments 40% (6) were completed within 20 days. At the end of January, we had 1 overdue health assessment for a baby who remains in hospital. This will be completed prior to discharge.

The CLA health team have been notified with regards to UASC in Haringey, we will be reserving 1 IHA appointment each week to ensure they are seen promptly. We also work closely with the Infectious Diseases Screening Clinic at University College

London Hospital who have implemented a process for reviewing the health of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

There are currently 14 overdue RHA's (Those children who have not had a date review health assessment between April 1, 2022, and 31.1.2023. Some have refused or have not attended appointments. The nurses continue to offer appointments often visiting placements on several occasions and liaising with SW's and carers to try to see the children.

Dental checks

95% of over 2's who were due RHA's in January had a documented up to date dental check.

In November 2021 London LAC services saw the launch of the Healthy Smiles Looked After Children's Oral Health Pilot., This enables social workers and health practitioners to refer children and young people to dental practices within London for a routine check.

Immunisations

89% of those due review health assessments in January were up to date with immunisations. 1 requires flu vaccine aged 3, 1 16-year-old requires men ACWY HPV & DPT. 1 16-year-old requires HPV.

I have concerns with regards to the uptake of some immunisations of CLA. I have met with public health, vaccination UK and lead IRO to discuss ways of improving the uptake and obtaining data with regards to current immunisation status of children. We currently request a report from the GP prior to the health assessment.

Updates

I have been notified extra funding will be awarded next financial year April 2023 to enable the team to recruit an extra CLA nurse, which will increase the team to 4 whole time equivalent CLA Band 7 posts. We currently have 1 vacancy due to resignation of one nurse who has been on long term sickness.

Interviews are taking place in March for the Designated Dr's post.

Regular meetings have taken place over the past year with social care, Commissioning, First Step. Open door and BEH MH Trust to review the children in care mental health pathway, we have requested Haringey CLA have access to timely CAMHS input if required. A proposal is to be submitted to request increase funding to ensure this is met.

Lynn Carrington
Designated Nurse CIC Haringey 13.2.2023