

NHS DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP
GOVERNING BODY MEETING
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

Date of the meeting	17/07/2019
Author	P Earney - Designated Nurse for looked after Children and Care Leavers
Sponsoring Board member	Dr S Yule, Locality Chair for North Dorset
Purpose of Report	To provide an executive summary report on services being commissioned for Looked After Children, current trends, and outcomes for all children accommodated in Dorset.
Recommendation	The Governing Body is asked to note the report.
Stakeholder Engagement	The Designated Nurse is working closely with all providers and partner stakeholders, in reviewing and monitoring current services commissioned to meet the health needs of children accommodated in Dorset.
Previous GB / Committee/s, Dates	N/A

Monitoring and Assurance Summary

This report links to the following Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing ill health and reducing inequalities 		
	Yes [e.g. ✓] <i>Copy & paste tick</i>	Any action required?	
		Yes Detail in report	No
All three Domains of Quality (Safety, Quality, Patient Experience)	✓		✓
Board Assurance Framework Risk Register	✓		✓
Budgetary Impact	✓		✓
Legal/Regulatory	✓		✓
People/Staff	✓		✓
Financial/Value for Money/Sustainability	✓		✓
Information Management & Technology	✓		✓
Equality Impact Assessment	✓		✓
Freedom of Information	✓		✓
I confirm that I have considered the implications of this report on each of the matters above, as indicated	✓		

9.9



**Dorset
Clinical Commissioning Group**

**Looked After Children & Care Leavers Annual Health
CCG Report
2018-2019
Executive Strategic Summary**

**Penny Earney
Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Quality Directorate
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG)**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This strategic summary is to give assurance to the Governing Body and wider reader that the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG) are meeting their statutory requirements in commissioning services in identifying and meeting the health needs of their Looked after Children population of Dorset. This report covers the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.
- 1.2 The provider annual health reports for 2018-19 can be found in Appendix one and two. These reports provide an overview of health support to children looked after (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL).

2. Outcomes of Key areas for Development 2018-19

- 2.1 Effective partnership joint working with our providers and local authorities in tracking trends and impact has given us a clearer picture and focused direction for improving access to specialist health provision.
- 2.2 The focus to improve access to emotional and mental health support with appropriate interventions to improve outcomes for LAC has been achieved. The innovative feature of commissioning unique to Dorset of all LAC receiving a three monthly review, improves oversight of each child's health interventions and prevents drift between statutory reviews. The implementation of two Emotional & Well-being practitioners within the LAC Health Team and a Mental Health Pathway for LAC is enabling LAC to access the right support at the right time. CQC (November 2018) saw that this model had benefitted a number of children whose records were reviewed.
- 2.3 The monitoring of health provider activity and performance in line with contractual arrangements is tracking and monitoring the trajectory of activity and quality indicators to measure impact and outcomes for LAC. This has been achieved and was noted as an area of good practice and effective leadership by CQC (November 2018.)
- 2.4 Provider visits to seek assurance that quality assurance of Initial Health Assessments (IHA's) and Review Health Assessments (RHA's) is being completed and that they are fit for any regulatory inspections. This was not achieved due to recruitment and restructuring of the nursing teams. Assurance was sought instead via quarterly reporting of quality assurance by providers of IHA's and RHA's.
- 2.5 A focus in seeking assurance that health providers are meeting the physical, emotional-wellbeing and mental health needs for LAC transitioning to independence has been achieved with the implementation of new provision known as DNA "Dorset New Adults" Health Service for Young People Leaving Care. This provision was part of the new commissioning model and sits within the LAC Health Team.
- 2.6 DCCG and DHC are working with Bournemouth University in creating a LAC practitioner's pathway to build carer progress, sustainability and succession planning

for local provision of specialist LAC services. This was not taken forward during 2018-19 due to changes and availability within the university programme offer.

- 2.7 The DCCG Children in Care Conference “Be Healthy, Build Resilience, Be Happy” for LAC and CL was postponed from February 2019 but took place in April 2019. The aim of the conference was to informing them of health provision available across the health economy and seek their views on what we are getting right and where we need to improve. A film show casing this event will be available shortly to view via the DCCG Website access by following this link;
<https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/services/keeping-adults-and-children-safe/looked-after-children/>
- 2.8 There has been continued focus to act as a positive advocate for DCCG in promoting good practice for LAC & CL within Dorset.

3. Demographics of Dorset LAC & CL Population

- 3.1 The demographics have remained stable with 913 LAC under the age of 18 years with a further 593 CL up to the age 25 years. DCCG have a responsibility to support the health needs of LAC placed in Dorset by other local authorities of which there are 307 giving a total population of 1,801 in receipt of specialist LAC health support.

4. Performance

- 4.1 Overall performance of 52.6% for 2018/19 fell against 2017/18 which was 56.5%, which remains significantly below the required 85% performance indicator for IHA's to be completed within the 20 working day statutory time frame. Delays in receiving health notification with consent from Local Authority colleagues has contributed to this performance. This issue remains on the DCCG risk register and is being escalated through the Corporate Parenting Boards.
- 4.2 Following significant partnership working a revised IHA Pathway with practitioner guidance has been produced and agreed during 2018-19. Analyses of performance and practice will continue throughout 2019-20 to be able to maintain oversight of reasons for delays, to inform improvement.
- 4.3 The specialist nursing service provided by (Dorset Health Care have met all but one of their performance indicators, which is in relation to obtaining consent in the 16-18-year age group. Compliance has improved significantly and the upward trend would indicate that all LAC 16+ have been offered the opportunity to sign their own consent (a statutory requirement) will be met in 2019/20. Overall improvement in all performance indicators from 2016-2019 was noted as an area of sustainable good practice by CQC (November 2018).
- 4.4 2018-19 has seen an improvement of Quality Audits for both IHA's and RHA's being completed. 100% compliance has been achieved against the set performance indicator. Findings from these audits are shared with DCCG and practitioners across the service to inform practice development of themes emerging, to ensure health assessments are robust, comprehensive and informative with clear time scales for any actions to meet health needs reviewed.

- 4.5 Impact of improved health outcomes for LAC and CL is now being reported to DCCG via case studies examples, these can be seen within the provider's annual reports.
- 4.6 Feedback forms part of the DCCG Providers indicators and can be viewed in their 2018-19 annual reports. One young person feedback their experience as: *"it's helpful because you have trust that someone is there to talk to and without it I would struggle more. It feels a lot more useful, less pressure and less stressful than other services I have been to."*
- 4.7 The key themes from feedback from our LAC and CL is to continued improved access and timely support for emotional and mental health, and health support for CL transitioning to adulthood.

5. Compliments and Complaints

- 5.1 No formal complaints have been received during 2018/19.
- 5.2 Compliments have been received from LAC & CL, foster cares, partner agencies, DCCG CEO, CQC and NHSE.
- 5.3 DCCG are being recognised nationally for their effective commissioning arrangements, with requests being made to share their model.

6. Key areas for Development for the DCCG Designate Nurse 2019-20

- 6.1 Continue to work in partnership with providers, Dorset Council (DC), Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Corporate Parenting Boards to improve performance of IHA within the 20 working day statutory time frame, then seek assurance through performance management that once improved it is being sustained.
- 6.2 Continue to build partnership joint working with providers, DC and BCP, other agencies and the voluntary sector in tracking trends and impact for Looked after children and Care Leavers to inform the focus of health provision.
- 6.3 Seek assurance that the emotional and mental health support and appropriate interventions to improve outcomes for LAC are in place, accessible and timely.
- 6.4 Seek assurance the new DNA "Dorset New Adults" health service for CL is fully embedded with positive impact for the CL population.
- 6.5 Carry out provider visits to seek assurance that health provider activity and quality performance is in line with contractual arrangements.
- 6.6 Continue to seek the voice of our LAC and CL population to inform future commissioning arrangements.
- 6.7 Continue to act as a positive advocate for DCCG in promoting good practice identified for LAC & CL within Dorset, regionally and nationally.

Author: Penny Earney Designated Nurse for LAC & CL DCCG
Telephone: 01305 213626

APPENDICES	
Appendix One	Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Looked After Children Annual Report 2018-2019
Appendix Two	Dorset Health Care Specialists Nursing Looked After Children's (LAC) Health Service, Annual Report: 1st April 2018– 31st March 2019