

Corporate Parenting Committee Report – Derby City	
Paper title	Update of the Derby City Looked after Children (LAC) health team – Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (DHcFT)
Author	Heather Peet – Designated Nurse for Looked after Children Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG)
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Current provider and arrangements:

The purpose of this paper is to provide Derby City Corporate Parenting Board a brief overview of the current and future looked after children health arrangements that Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) Commission from Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (DHcFT).

Over the last few months there has been an opportunity to work closely with the Health Provider in order to review the Looked after Children Service. To enable this review Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) Designated Professionals and the Children Commissioners have worked collaboratively and in partnership with DHcFT Children Services General Manager, Service Manager and the Looked after Children health team. The Provider has fully engaged in this review and has been willing to adapt in order to ensure that the health needs, statutory functions and responsibilities of looked after children are being met.

This review of the service has been facilitated by working closely with DHcFT in the development of a new Looked after Children (LAC) Service Specification that more accurately reflects the service that CCG is required to commission from the Health Provider in order to fulfil its statutory responsibilities. The new LAC Service Specification clearly explains in detail the statutory requirements, agreed practice principles for all cohorts of LAC living in Derby City (including those from other Local Authorities), LAC living close to home and those living at a distance. It is expected the final ratification of the service specification will take place by the end of July 2017 and will be in place until 31st March 2019.

It is acknowledged that there are a significant number of children, which remain the responsibility of Derby City Local Authority, that are placed just outside the City boundary and close to home (within a 20 mile radius). Historically this cohort of children relied on other Health Providers to complete their statutory review health assessments; often with delay and reduced quality. The Designated Nurse for Looked after Children who is responsible for assuring the quality of review health assessments carried out in and out of the area has at times found it a challenge to return and gain an improvement in sub-standard health assessments for those undertaken out of area. In light of this DHcFT and SDCCG have negotiated that the Derby City LAC team will travel to undertake review health assessment up to the mileage of approximately 20 miles. The outcome of this arrangement will be that Derby City looked after children will have timely health assessments that are of a high standard that clearly identify the individual health needs of the child and then be in a position to facilitate relevant health services to meet the identified health needs of the child.

This arrangement has been agreed as a Contract Variation between SDCCG and Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust which was agreed on 6th June 2017 until 31st March 2019.

LAC team and staffing levels:

Designation	Hours	WTE
Designated Doctor	4 hours (1 session)	
Designated Nurse (SDCCG)	37.5 hours (During Secondment period)	1
Named Nurse	30 hours	0.8
Specialist Nurse	14 hours	0.37
Specialist Nurse	22.5 hours	0.6
Specialist Nurse	30 hours	0.8
Specialist Nurse - Vacant Post	26.25 hours	0.7
Administration		
Co-ordinator (Children in care Coordinator) CiCA	18.75 hours	0.5
Administrator CiCA	18 hours	0.48
Administrator CiCA	16 hours	0.43
Administrator CiCA	20 hours	0.53

Over the last year there have been significant changes within the DHcFT Looked after Children team which has had an impact on the teams capacity and workload. DHcFT have been successful in recruiting new staff within the team which has had a positive impact in meeting the needs of the service.

The Specialist Nurse vacant post has recently been advertised on 27th June 2017 and hopefully the successful candidate will be in post by October 2017. Verbal update on the recruitment progression will be provided at the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting on 25th July.

The Provider is extremely confident there will be no issues in recruiting a suitable candidate into the vacant post of Specialist Nurse.

Within the Intercollegiate Document (March 2015) which is a guidance document recommends that LAC Specialist Nurse staffing should be a minimum of 1 WTE per 100 looked after children. Once the vacant post is recruited into the whole time equivalent (WTE) of staffing stands at 2.47 for approximately 450 children looked after. However, it is important to highlight that there is a large cohort of LAC that are placed out of Derby City; about 60% of children due to placement availability of which approximately half of those live close to home (within 20 mile radius). As mentioned above SDCCG has worked with the Health Provider to now manage this gap under the contract variation agreement to ensure that the initial and review health assessments are undertaken. The Commissioners will be kept fully informed of any challenges in not being able to meet the statutory requirements so that arrangements agreed can be reviewed.

Estimated distribution of Derby City Looked after Children are as follows (not exact figures as they fluctuate constantly):

Placement	Distribution of	
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	placements	
Living in Derby City	40% = 180 (of 450)	Total number of children under direct care of Derby City Lac health team = 315
Living close to Derby City (within 20 mile radius)	30% = 135 (of 450)	
Living at a distance	30% = 135	RHA's are completed by an out of area provider under service level agreement

On reflection of the distribution of looked after children the Health Provider is deemed to almost have staff in post at a level advised within the Intercollegiate Document (March 2015), being only short of 0.53 WTE. However, it has to be acknowledged this document is deemed to be 'gold standard' and one for services to aspire and fulfil as much as possible; to ensure that looked after children receive the healthcare services they require by skilled competent staff and in a timely manner.

Looked after children from out of area placed in Derby City

Arrangements to undertake any review health assessment requested by other Local Authorities for looked after children born out but live in Derby City have been agreed in principle, with Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The Provider plans to use additional resources within their service and via a service level agreement using the National tariff payment process to fulfil their statutory duty for every looked after child in Derby City.

Named and Specialist Professional roles

The DHcFT LAC health team have core competencies, specialist skills, knowledge and attitudes to act as advocates, undertake health assessments, identify and manage health needs and provide support/training to foster carers and children's homes (in line with the Intercollegiate Role Framework, RCN, RCGP, 2015). The team also contribute to health care plans for all children including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Designated Professionals roles

The Designated Nurse for looked after children has a statutory responsibility to promote the health and welfare of looked after children (Statutory Guidance: Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children, March 2015). This role is intended to be strategic at a Commissioning level (working in partnership with the Local Authority). The Designated Nurse is directly employed by SDCCG this enables a level of independence to the Health Provider. A key element of the Designated Nurse and Doctor roles is one of quality assuring the service provision of health assessments within Derby City and out of area, to ensure the placement for the child in no way disadvantages them in healthcare provision and outcomes; in comparison to those LAC living in Derby City and provide assurance to the SDCCG that the service that it commissions is of a high standard.

The Derby City Designated Nurse – LAC (Heather Peet) has been newly appointed by SDCCG to work full time due to predecessor retirement; commencing the position on 15th

May 2017. The Designated Nurse's clinical background is one of adult nursing, occupational health, practice nursing, Health Visitor, Nurse Management, Clinical Quality lead within Primary Care and has been nurse qualified for 25 years. The Designated Nurse will be working very closely with the Designated Doctor and the Looked after Children team and will be forging strong working relationships with partner agencies.

As the responsible Clinical Commissioning Group for Derby City looked after children, Southern Derbyshire CCG is highly committed to work in partnership with the Provider and local partners to improve the outcomes and health for this most vulnerable group of children/young people.

Designated Nurse key priorities for 2017/18:

- Networking and building relationships with key people, local partners and agencies
- Regular attendance at key Commissioning, Provider and Local Authority meetings ensuring the looked after child is considered, their voice heard and acted upon
- Work in collaboration with the Provider to improve and make efficiencies within the administration processes for the LAC health team
- Assurance that the LAC health team undertake required specialist training and maintain their skills and knowledge and receive regular clinical supervision
- Quality assure the LAC health team using the 'Markers of Good Practice' assurance framework, including a quality visit and improvement action plans if required



Markers of Good
Practice CIC - Final V

- Improve health data provided to the Local Authority in a timely manner
- Health pathways to be developed for : health assessment refusals, was not brought to appointment, SEND, missing children
- Health history booklet and process to be improved in partnership with the Provider, leaving care teams and gaining the opinion of looked after children (recommended in Ofsted inspection). Due to be discussed at the CIC Council in August 2017
- To improve the reporting process to SDCCG Quality Assurance Committee
- Review the service provision, value for money, quality, timeliness and provision of looked after children living close to home (captured within the 20 mile radius temporary contract variation agreement)
- Increase involvement with Designated Teachers in particular the Virtual schools Head teacher by attending their meetings on a regular basis
- Develop training packages with the Derby Safeguarding Children Board training pool for health, social care and allied professionals
- Work collaboratively with NDCCG and where possible to adapt to the Derbyshire footprint
- Launch of a website for looked after children (developed by NDCCG)

DHcFT Provider key priorities for 2017/18:

- Health pathways to be developed for : health assessment refusals, was not brought to appointment, SEND, missing children
- To produce an Annual report by September 2017

- Commence peer record keeping audits, to improve the standards, quality of documentation, completion of the coram BAAF forms and to share learning as a team
- Administration processes to be reviewed and improved to drive efficiencies
- Completion of the 'Markers of Good Practice' assurance framework and implement an improvement plan if required in collaboration with Designated Professionals
- Implementation and fulfilment of the service specification
- Development of a Specialist and Named Nurse 'biography' to be given to all looked after children new to care and to Derby City children's homes
- Commence shared learning sessions within the LAC health team eg: action learning sets
- Standardise resources used and develop resource packs for children's homes and carers
- Re-evaluate and re-develop the training programme content for foster carers and health professionals
- Build greater team and individual emotional resilience within the LAC health team

These key priorities are an overview of some of the on-going work and strong commitment to improving the health and welfare of looked after children. The vision is to ensure looked after children reach their natural potential through the interventions of competent, skilled, compassionate professionals and their drive to make a difference to this vulnerable group of children and young people.