

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Information Report

Committee	Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Date:</b>	21 June 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Improving Health Assessments for Children in Care
<b>Report From:</b>	Transforming Social Care Team, Children and Families Branch

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#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of activity to improve how we understand and meet the health needs of children in care and support care leavers to manage their health independently.

#### Executive Summary

2. Children's Services and Health partners have long worked together to improve the health of children in care and care leavers. More recently, improving the value, uptake and timeliness of health assessments has been a key area of focus.
3. Following a series of multi-agency workshops held in September 2020, work has progressed on a joint action plan of improvements. This paper provides an overview of progress against this plan.
4. Workstreams of the action plan are:
  - Health assessment forms
  - Administration
  - Health assessment appointments
  - Promoting health
  - Care leaver health passports
  - Legislative change and flexibilities

5. Personnel and structural changes in Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCG, and the Covid health pandemic, have impacted the establishment of joint governance for the action plan, and the progress of some workstream activity. Despite this, collaboration between health and social care has enabled significant progress to be made.

### **Contextual information**

6. In September 2020, a series of virtual workshops were held to review the end-to-end process of arranging and completing health assessments and acting on recommendations. Participants generated and assessed ideas for improvement, before agreeing upon an action plan for Children's Services and Health senior manager sign-off.
7. The objectives of the action plan are to ensure:
  - Children in care find their health assessments valuable.
  - More assessments are complete within statutory timescales.
  - Assessments enable both the individual and collective needs of Hampshire's children in care to be understood and met.
8. Participants in the virtual workshops included: health assessment commissioners and providers (West Hampshire CCG, Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust and Southern Health Foundation Trust), children's social care workers (senior and operational managers, and administrators), and a foster carer.
9. At the Senior Managers Feedback event, it was agreed that Children's Services would allocate project management resource to drive implementation of the action plan and support oversight across both Children's Services and Health partners. A project manager has since been allocated.

### **The Joint Health Assessment Action Plan**

10. Significant progress has been made, whilst changes in personnel in the CCG and the Covid health pandemic have impacted the establishment of joint governance and the progress of some workstream activity.

<b>Workstream</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
Health assessment forms	HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To simplify forms required to arrange health assessments, making them easier to complete.</li> <li>Improve the structure and guidance for completing the health assessment record, so young people receive high quality, comprehensive and meaningful assessments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forms and guidance have been redesigned and approved by Children's Services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health partners approval of new forms</li> <li>Begin use.</li> </ul>
Administration	HCC	<p>To improve recording and reporting on the progress of health assessments, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable issues to be identified and addressed earlier.</li> <li>Minimise duplication of effort between Children's Services and Health partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New recording and reporting practice has been agreed by Children's Services.</li> <li>Improved recording is now in progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollout automated reporting.</li> <li>Improve data sharing between Children's Services and Health partners.</li> </ul>
Health assessment appointments	CCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the accessibility of health assessment appointments to improve attendance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment of additional GPs to complete initial health assessments is in progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommission review health assessment providers, with requirements to offer more choice of when appointments are available and how these can be booked.</li> </ul>

<b>Workstream</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
Promoting health	Joint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote uptake of health assessments.</li> <li>Support young people and those caring for them to act on the recommendations of assessments to improve their health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflets for young and older children, and training for social workers and carers, explaining and promoting the benefits of health assessments are a work in progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise and begin use of leaflets and training.</li> <li>Develop wider support package for promoting health.</li> </ul>
Care leaver health passports	HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish tools and processes to share young people's health histories (and avenues to learn more) with them, to equip them to manage their health independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance and templates have been approved by Children's Services and are now in use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review health passports produced to inform continuous improvement.</li> </ul>
Legislative change and flexibilities	Joint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby for legislative change to ensure requirements of health assessments are fit for purpose.</li> <li>Explore flexibilities within legislation and statutory guidance, to ensure processes are proportionate and reflect the needs of children in care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On hold.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop lobbying plan and action.</li> <li>Consider current flexibilities, fitness for purpose and wider application.</li> </ul>

## Conclusions

11. Personnel and structural changes in Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCG, and the Covid health pandemic, have impacted the establishment of joint governance for the action plan, and the progress of some workstream activity. Despite this, collaboration between health and social care at an operational level has enabled significant progress to be made.

### REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

#### Links to the Strategic Plan

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	no

<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010	2010

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	