

# Improving Health Assessments for Children in Care

Corporate Parenting Board update

June 2021



# Background and context



## Background

Children's Services and Health partners have long worked together to improve the health of children in care and care leavers.

Known issue of HAs

More recently, improving the value, uptake and timeliness of health assessments has been a key area of focus.

## Rapid Review

In September 2020, 12 multi-agency representatives attended a series of virtual workshops 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.

## A Joint Action Plan

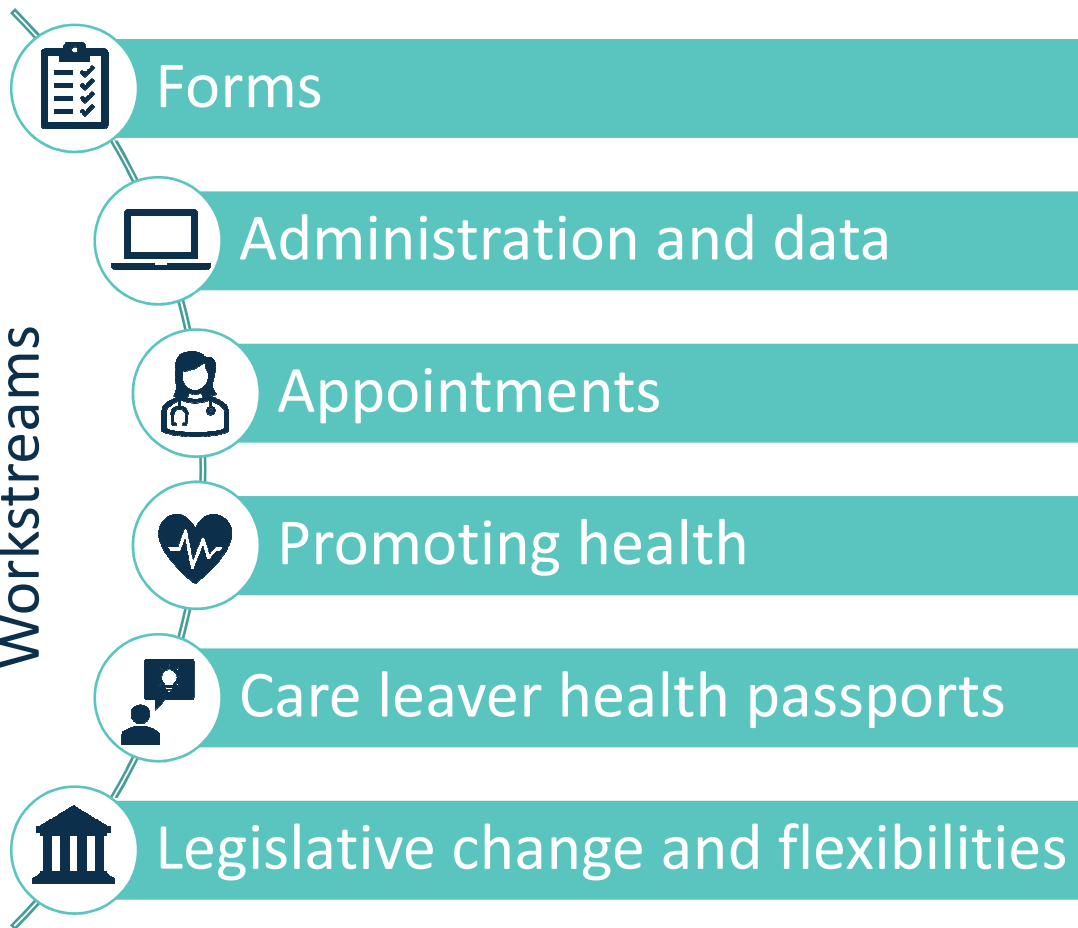
The objectives of the action plan are to ensure:

- Children in care find their health assessments valuable.
- More assessments are completed within statutory timescales.
- Assessments enable both the individual and collective needs of Hampshire's children in care to be understood and met.

# The Joint Action Plan



Workstreams



Personnel and structural changes in Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCG 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.

# The Joint Action Plan



Stream + Lead		Objectives	Progress made	Next steps
	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 forms and endorsement of guidance.</li> <li>Begin use.</li> </ul>
Administration Data	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>


# The Joint Action Plan



Stream + Lead		Objectives	Progress made	Next steps
Departments	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>• Work with providers to offer choice of when appointments available and how these can be booked.</li> </ul>
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 explaining and promoting the benefits of health assessments, and training for social workers and carers, 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 pack for promoting health.</li> </ul>

# The Joint Action Plan



Stream + Lead		Objectives	Progress made	Next steps
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>
Legislation	Joint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby for legislative change to ensure requirements for 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 and their fitness for purpose and wider application.</li> </ul>