

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 24 October 2016

Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Lancashire

Contact for further information:

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Appendix 'A' refers

Executive Summary

During June 2016 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a review of the provision of healthcare and the exercise of functions of NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The review explored the effectiveness of health services for looked after children and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within health for all children. The focus was on the experiences of looked after children and children and their families who receive safeguarding services.

The report, published in August 2016, records the findings of the review of health services in safeguarding and looked after children services in Lancashire. As a consequence of the review, relevant local agencies have worked together to develop the action plan (Appendix A).

Recommendations

- That the Board notes and endorses the action plan from Lancashire County Council (Appendix A).
- Note that the action plans from NHS organisations included in the CQC review will be presented to the Board once they have been signed off by the individual organisations.

Background

During June 2016 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a review of the provision of healthcare and the exercise of functions of NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The review explored the effectiveness of health services for looked after children and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within health for all children. The focus was on the experiences of looked after children and children and their families who receive safeguarding services.

The CQC considered:

- the role of healthcare providers and commissioners.
- the role of healthcare organisations in understanding risk factors, identifying needs, communicating effectively with children and families, liaising with other agencies, assessing needs and responding to those needs and contributing to multi-agency assessments and reviews.

- the contribution of health services in promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of looked after children including carrying out health assessments and providing appropriate services.
- whether healthcare organisations were working in accordance with their responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, including the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'.

The report, published in August 2016, records the findings of the review of health services in safeguarding and looked after children services in Lancashire. It focuses on the experiences and outcomes for children within the geographical boundaries of the local authority area and reports on the performance of health providers serving the area including Lancashire's six Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the NHS England North Area Team.

Where the findings relate to children and families in local authority areas other than Lancashire, cross-boundary arrangements were considered and commented on. Arrangements for the health-related needs and risks for children placed out of area were also included.

As a consequence of the review, relevant local agencies have worked together to develop the action plan (Appendix A).

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are requested to consider and endorse the action plan.

List of background papers

Identified and linked in the report.