



## Corporate Parenting Partnership

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**Title:** Health system update

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### Overview of data and analysis

#### IHAs for Children in Care Originating from Blackburn with Darwen LA

During Jan-March 2024, a total of 20 IHAs were requested for completion for CiC originating from Blackburn with Darwen (BwD). 17 IHA requests were in relation to CiC placed within BwD, with 15 (88%) IHAs completed within the statutory time frame of 20 working days. 3 IHAs were requested for BwD CiC placed OOA, with 3 (100%) completed with timeframes.

Ongoing challenges experienced with regard to the utilisation of interpreters for initial health assessments. Initial conversations have taken place with local authority Head of Policy, Strategy & Corporate Support to seek resolution, however further case examples support the need to review this. ICB Designated Nurse will discuss further with Head of Service to progress.

#### RHAs for Children in Care Originating from Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority

A total of 75 RHAs were requested for CiC originating from Blackburn with Darwen LA. For BwD CiC placed in BwD, the compliance rate is 94%, as 35 RHAs were requested for completion and 33 were completed within timeframes. 40 RHA were requested for BwD CiC placed OOA and of those, 32 (80%) were completed on time.

In addition, 18 (100%) of the 18 RHA requests received for completion for CiC placed in BwD from OOA local authorities were completed within the statutory time scales.

#### Themes from contacts and health assessments

The majority of referrals to the nursing team have been for support regarding mental health concerns, predominately for female care leavers. In addition, the team are seeing a number of themes from health assessments that feature physical health issues, ADHD, complex health needs, complex trauma, epilepsy, pregnancy, self-harm, requesting funding for therapy and outstanding immunisations.

#### Dental Pathway 3 referral data – March 2023 to May 2024

The ICB have worked in partnership with our health system to develop a dedicated oral health pathway to ensure children in care and care leavers are able to access routine NHS dental provision to promote good oral health.

In total 525 referrals have been made to the pathway; 5.5% (30 children) have been from the Blackburn with Darwen local authority area. There has been one referral from BwD for a care leaver to date. Feedback from young people has included the improved confidence they have felt and less pain, with one child reporting they had tooth ached for 2 years which was now resolved. Carers also report the near on immediate response to a health need.

A sustainable offer is in development by the ICB for all children living in Lancashire and South Cumbria in line with reducing health inequalities as part of the NHS England Core20plus5 programme. This will ensure children in care and care leavers are prioritised in all NHS dental practices across the ICB footprint, in recognition of their additional vulnerabilities.

#### Care Leaver health summaries (passports)

A Lancashire and South Cumbria wide process for the provision of care leaver health summaries has been launched in May 2024. Developed in consultation with young people and professionals working with children in care and care leavers this will ensure consistent quality delivery and performance monitoring of the statutory requirement across the ICB area, ensuring effective plans are in place to assist in a smooth transition to adulthood.

#### Areas to improve – multi-agency

It is recognised through the contacts to the nursing team that for those children and young people who reside OOA, a high level of co-ordination and liaison with partner agencies with those OOA authorities is required. It is imperative that liaison and co-ordination by the CiC nurses is undertaken in a timely manner to ensure that all health needs are addressed quickly and that the child is not disadvantaged in any way. To assist with this it is key that the CiC nurses are involved in the planning of moves out of area or communicated with at the earliest opportunity – recognising that some need to be done in emergency situations. The CiC nurse can then assist the local authority in ensuring that onward health referrals are made and seek assurance that health needs will be met in the receiving area, particularly as some commissions and provision can differ.

### **Findings from QA and feedback from children and families/carers.**

#### Feedback

It is evident through the direct contact the nurses are now receiving from our young people that the support offered is of value to them. Most contact for further advice and support with ongoing health needs.

#### Quality Assurance

A recent in-depth audit of health assessments was completed with a theme of physical health. Results found that in almost all cases, health records had been accessed to inform the process enabling a thorough assessment and accurate identification of health needs for the child. Equally, almost all included a SMART action plan, enabling health needs to be reviewed and monitored regularly.

Where the assessment needed any level of improvement this was mainly around the need for further exploration and discussion of a topic, offering of public health advice and ensuring a SMART plan was evident. The Enhanced CiC nurses strive towards excellence in all health assessments which are required for a child's health outcomes to be optimal. Any health assessments identified to be of poor quality are addressed directly with the practitioners responsible and offer support, training and guidance where required.

### **What's working well (with our multi agency working)**

During quarter 4 the Enhanced CiC Nurses have responded to 21 new referrals for a request for support from the local authority Leaving Care Team in Blackburn with Darwen. The Nurses work closely with these young people and their Personal Advisor (PA) from the point of referral to address these unmet health needs. The Nurses will undertake joint visits to see the young person, liaise with the relevant specialist services and have involvement within multi-disciplinary team (MDT) in order to achieve the best outcome for these young people.

CiC nurses have continued to attend team meetings with the Leaving Care teams in BwD providing health advice to the PAs to subsequently support Care Leavers. Some examples of the advice offered relates to accessing dental care and the use of the ICB dental pathway, how to access adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) services, information about local sexual health and midwifery services, Care Leavers health summary letters process, the process for obtaining ADHD medication for a CiC when they reach their 18th birthday.

The CiC nurses and Revive team are due to commence a 'health drop in' within the BwD homeless young person's provider, which will offer the opportunity for young people to access health advice and support. Data collection of various themes will support in the evaluation of the drop in and will aid in any identifying the success and also any improvements of the service that may be necessary. It is hoped that the drop in will be extended to wider health services in the future.

<b>Anything for the Corporate Parenting Board?</b>	

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