

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 14th January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Children in Care Annual report

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Annual Report on the Health of Children in Care 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children In Care Annual Report (Attached in Appendix 1) looks at the health issues of Children In Care (CIC) in Halton and Children In Care from Other Local Authorities who live in Halton (CICOLAS).
- 3.2 The report has been provided by Marie Fairbrother, who is the Named Nurse Halton Safeguarding Children from Bridgewater Community Healthcare. Bridgewater health care practitioners are commissioned by Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver safe and effective care to CIC which is measured by key performance indicators. Service delivery in Bridgewater is also monitored by the Care Quality Commission.
- 3.3 Service delivery is underpinned by the Department of Health (2009) 'Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children'. Also guidance produced by NICE (2010) "Promoting the Quality of Life of Looked after Children and Young People".
- 3.4 When a child or young person comes into care they have a health assessment by the Community Paediatrician (a doctor who works with children and young people). Some children and young people when they enter care are not always up to date with health checks and immunisations (which protect them from serious illness) or may not have been to the dentist so we want to make sure that they catch up with anything they have missed.

- 3.5 Once they have seen the doctor, the children and young people will each have a nurse who will see them later in the year for health checks and help them with their health care plan. The Children in Care Nurse will also see all Care Leavers for a health check before they leave care.
- 3.6 The report concludes that there has been considerable improvement in children receiving a timely service to ensure that their health needs are identified and addressed. However there is still room for improvement and healthcare partners need to continue to work together, to ensure that CIC are offered a service of the highest quality to meet each child/young person's needs.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The policy implications are addressed below.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Addressing the health needs of Children In Care is an essential part of the care provided to Looked after Children and Young People.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Looking after the health needs of children In Care will help to ensure that they remain healthy and are therefore less likely to require time away from education or training.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

It is essential that the health needs of Children in Care are assessed when they come into care, throughout their time in care and upon leaving care to ensure that any health needs are identified and met.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 If children and young people are not assessed to ensure that their health care needs are met, then there is the risk of health problems going undetected and possibly deterioration in their health.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Some children and young people when they enter care may have health inequalities as they are not always up to date with health checks and immunisations or may not have been to the dentist. It is therefore essential that they catch up with anything they have missed.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are none within the meaning of the Act.