

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open report on behalf of Jan Gunter, Designated Safeguarding Nurse, South West Lincolnshire CCG

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	10 June 2014
Subject:	The CQC Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Lincolnshire

Summary: To inform the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board of the CQC Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Lincolnshire and the associated action plan submitted to the CQC in response to the recommendations of the report.

Actions Required:

Receive the report.

1. Background

This report records the findings of the review of health services in safeguarding and looked after children services in Lincolnshire. 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 NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and the local area team (AT) of NHS England.

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

The review was conducted under Section 48 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 which permits CQC to review the provision of NHS 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 of children and their families who receive safeguarding services.
- It looked at 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 looked after children including carrying out health assessments and providing appropriate services.

Further, it checked whether healthcare organisations were working in accordance with their responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. This includes the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013.

2. Conclusion

The CQC review was undertaken in November 2013 which included a site visit for 1 week by two inspectors. The review included case file tracking of the child's journey of a 10 highly complex cases involving a number of health agencies plus 53 cases that were dip sampled from case records and then tracked through each service they encountered across health including primary care.

The review identified areas of good practice, specifically around the interface between CAMHS and adult mental health services and the screening tools and vulnerability risk assessments utilised in the community services. The review also identified good partnership working and professional challenge. The review did not identify any issues that were unknown to commissioning and provider services:

- Capacity of the designate professionals for safeguarding and looked after children for strategic leadership and commissioning planning.
- Paediatric expertise within unscheduled care / A&E settings
- The self-harm pathway is not embedded in practice
- Variance in quality of the statutory health assessment for looked after children
- The impact of externally placed children in independent care settings on local resources.

Recommendations:

- There were 25 recommendations made across 9 themes for both commissioning and provider organisations across Lincolnshire and NHS England Area Team.
- All themes include all four CCGs and are therefore being managed collaboratively and in association with NHS provider organisations.
- There are 45 strategic actions planned and included in the appendix of this report to address the recommendations which have been accepted.
- The action plan is being co-ordinated through the Federated Safeguarding Service Team.
- The action plan is RAG rated locally to monitor progress. There were no areas rated as Red on submission of the action plan to the CQC.

Whilst being a health review, it was acknowledged by the CQC that some recommendations require effective partnership working with the LA.

3. Consultation

Patients and staff were consulted during this review in line with CQC methodology.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	CQC Report
Appendix B	Action Plan in response to CQC Report

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jan Gunter Designated Safeguarding Nurse South West Lincolnshire CCG, who can be contacted on jan.gunter@southwestlincolnshireccg.nhs.uk