

Report for Surrey Corporate Parenting Board

Report title:	Initial Health Assessments – Storyboard Cover Report
CPB pledge(s)	Surrey’s children and young people are healthy and aware of their choices
Author:	Sheila Jones, Head of Countywide Services (Surrey County Council) Amanda Boodhoo, Deputy Director for Safeguarding (Guildford & Waverley CCG)
Date of meeting:	12 March 2018

CONTEXT

1. At the Improvement Board meeting on 25 January 2018, the discussion on Initial Health Assessment (IHA) performance highlighted discrepancies between the information reported by Surrey County Council Children’s Services and that from the Guildford & Waverley CCG. Further clarification of the process and in particular the expected timescales through the health assessment pathway was needed.
2. Leaders from SCC, the CCG and health provider met on 2 February 2018 and agreed to take a system leadership approach to this with outcomes for children firmly at the centre. From February 2018 onwards, a joint update on IHAs will be provided (to the Corporate Parenting Board, Improvement Board and Select Committee Performance Sub-Group), ensuring any conflicts with performance information are resolved in advance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The recommendations and improvements listed should be discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board to identify any further areas needing clarification and to highlight any potential challenges to delivering these improvements.
4. Support from the Corporate Parenting Board is requested to help deliver these improvements so that we can achieve a clearer and smoother process for children and to ultimately improve the health outcomes for children in our care.
5. The Corporate Parenting Board is also asked to note that we expect to apply relevant learning and improvements to the process and arrangements for Review Health Assessments and Dental Checks.

THE FOUR KEY CPB QUESTIONS

6. In relation to Initial Health Assessments for Looked After Children, please find below responses to the four key CPB questions:

**(Q1) What is life like for looked after children and care leavers?
(Why this issue matters for children)**

7. Historically, evidence shows that children who have been in care have poorer life expectancy and poorer health outcomes than children that do not enter care.
8. A child’s care plan is developed based on a specific understanding of the child’s health, education and social care needs. As corporate parents we must understand all aspects in order to develop a meaningful and supportive care plan.

9. The Initial Health Assessment should be conducted without drift or delay to ensure supporting services understand any existing health needs of the child that need to be supported and included within the care plan and also to discover any unidentified health needs that need to be addressed.

(Q2) Is this good enough for our children?

10. The attached storyboard (Appendix A) outlines the current position (also shown in the CPB Performance Report) and the health assessment pathway including key timescales at each point in the pathway.
11. Issues and challenges experienced by Children's Services, the CCG, health provider and children in our care, many of which have been discussed previously (at the CPB and Improvement Board), have been highlighted in the storyboard; key challenges include (further detail within Appendix A):
 - a. Delays including reporting when a child becomes Looked After; obtaining consent; returning completed IHA reports, recording on the case management system
 - b. Suitable times for appointments including having a different assessment approach for children of different ages
 - c. Child or social worker not attending appointments and not failure to arrange transport or interpreters where required
 - d. Different tools and methods used for tracking children through the pathway and access to different information used for reporting

(Q3) How well are we working in partnership to improve outcomes and experiences for looked after children and care leavers?

12. Leaders from SCC, the CCG and health provider have agreed to take a system leadership approach to this with outcomes for children firmly at the centre.
13. Please see Appendix A for further information about next steps and the approach we are taking as a joined-up partnership :

(Q4) What actions shall we take to improve the lives of looked after children and care leavers?

14. Recommendations for improving our approach to IHAs and supporting a joint approach to this work from now on include:
 - a. Taking a different approach to conducting Initial Health Assessments for children and young people of different ages
 - b. Establishing a different pathway for those children and young people that refuse to undertake a health assessment
 - c. Providing access to Surrey County Council's children's data for the CCG and Health Provider
 - d. Working with the Health Provider and CCG to carry out a detailed analysis of their business processes to identify constraints and challenges in order to inform a

detailed improvement action plan and to help align the practice and processes across organisations

15. Key actions include:

- a. The attached IHA storyboard will be jointly presented to the next Corporate Parenting Board on 12 March 2018.
- b. The Interim Director for Children's Services and Deputy Director for Safeguarding (CCG) will jointly present performance information regarding IHAs to all future Improvement Boards.
- c. Delivering the improvements outlined on Slide 10 of the attached storyboard, incorporating any amendments agreed by the Improvement Board and Corporate Parenting Board.

16. Delivering the actions above and the improvements outlined in the attached storyboard is expected to achieve the following on behalf of children in care:

- a. A shared understanding for SCC, Guildford & Waverley CCG, the Health provider and partner agencies of the IHA process
- b. Better support from SCC and partner agencies in order to drive performance and continuously improve practice together
- c. Earlier identification of challenges and blockages in the health assessment pathway and more effective management of those challenges

17. This will achieve a clearer and smoother process for children and to ultimately improved health outcomes for children in our care

FURTHER INFORMATION

18. Appendices attached to this report:

- (APPENDIX A) IHA Storyboard v2.1 FINAL

19. Links / contacts for further information:

- Sheila Jones, Head of Countywide Services (Surrey County Council)
- Sam Bushby, Assistant Director for Children's Services (Surrey County Council)
- Rose Durban, Interim Director for Children's Services (Surrey County Council)
- Amanda Boodhoo, Deputy Director for Safeguarding (Guildford & Waverley CCG)
- Justine Leonard, Director of Children and Young People's Services (SABP NHS Foundation Trust)