

Item 9: Supplementary Information

Briefing for Health Scrutiny

Date: 21st March 2012

Subject: Health and Looked After Children

NHS ABL has robust arrangements in place to address the health needs of Looked After Children (LAC).

Many of these children are experiencing mental health problems or have mental disability needs. Special arrangements are in place to ensure that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are available.

Leeds Community Health Care is commissioned to provide a LAC health team with designated doctors and nurses. Every LAC over the age of 5 years has a medical assessment to identify their mental and physical health needs and children under 5 years are assessed every 6 months. Dental health checks and vaccination status are assessed and positive action is taken to ensure that children receive dental health care and are fully immunised. An annual health plan is developed and implemented to meet the needs of each child. Lead health professionals are identified as key workers to ensure that action is taken so that the health and wellbeing of each child is maximised.

All these interventions are monitored and Leeds has a higher level of performance than the national average for 2011:

- Number of LAC who had been looked after for at least 12 months: 1,105
- Number of LAC whose immunisations are up to date: 87%
- Number of LAC who have had their teeth checked by a dentist: 88%
- Number of LAC who have had their annual health check assessments: 92%

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