

Designated Health Professionals LAC

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NHS Trust

Looked After Children

- Children in care or looked after children are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority.
- This can happen voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm.
- Highly vulnerable group of children who often have complex health/emotional and developmental needs.

Child protection from yesterday, last year, last decade

- Most children become looked after as a result of abuse and neglect. Although they have many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, the extent of these is often greater because of their past experiences. They are for example more likely to experience mental health problems.

The responsible authority

- Wherever a child comes into care, they remain the responsibility of their local authority for as long as they are looked after. If they move outside of their local area to another LA area, the placing authority retains responsibility for them
- They will have a social worker allocated from that authority to assess and manage all their needs for the entire period they remain looked after (care planning)

NHS responsibilities

NHS Mandate/Children's ACT

- The NHS contributes to meeting the health needs of looked after children in 3 ways
- Commissioning effective services
- Delivering through provider services
- Individual practitioners providing coordinated care for each child
- Statutory guidance / Care Planning Regs / Accountability Framework / NICE standard 31 and NICE guidelines



At any one time we think about 1100 children

They live with foster carers, in children's homes, pre adoptive placements, supported board and lodgings, hostels, with family, residential school, on remand, in custody, in secure units.

They all have a Unique Story

Fear

Confusion

Separation

Loss

Violence

Rejection

Sadness

Alcohol

Drugs

Angry

Worry

Some Facts

- There are 26 children's homes in T&W and 69 in Shropshire including specialist CSE homes.
- Approximately 160 children from other authorities are placed in Telford.
- Around 450 children from other authorities are placed in Shropshire.
- Around one third of School age LAC in Telford have a SEN statement (? To be converted to EHCP)
- There are currently 314 Shropshire LAC and 300 Telford LAC.
- Telford authority have 109 children placed out of area, but 81 of 109 live in Shropshire.

T&W LAC Profile April 2014-March 2015

- 40% of LAC in T&W were placed with internal Foster Carers
- 25.5% were placed with agency Foster Carers
- 11% were placed in residential units (all private companies)
- 5% were placed at home with parent(s) subject to a full care order
- 10.5% were looked after by relative carers
- 6.5% were placed for adoption
- 2.5% were living independently
- 24.5% were under the age of 5 years
- Approximately ½ ratio of boys to girls

Review Health Assessments T&W

