

Corporate Parenting Select Committee

Nancy Sayer, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children for Kent and Medway

Nancy has worked with looked after children since 2005. Prior to this she worked as a school nurse covering a number of schools in Maidstone and Medway.

Nancy worked as the Designated Nurse for LAC (looked after children) in Medway from 2005 to 2014. During this time she developed the service from one part-time Designated Nurse with administrative support to a team of 4 full-time nurses, a full-time Lead Nurse and a part-time Care Leavers Nurse.

While building the LAC health team Nancy contributed to the development of a LAC web-based database which has been vital to improving the service by ensuring that: up-to-date health information is available to the team; appointments/attendance is tracked; and health information obtained during health assessments is recorded. This not only supports the child/young person's health outcomes but also provides information on the health needs of the LAC population - vital to the planning and commissioning of health services.

In March 2014 Nancy was appointed Designated Nurse for LAC across Kent and Medway. Her role includes:

- providing strategic leadership and direction for LAC
- offering advice to the 8 Clinical Commissioning Groups across Kent and Medway
- working closely with Medway Council and Kent County Council to improve the health outcomes of local looked after children.

Nancy is a member of the Medway Corporate Parenting Board and the Kent Corporate Parenting Group.

Role of the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

In line with NHS England's Accountability and Assurance Framework, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) should have appropriate systems in place for discharging their responsibilities for safeguarding. This includes securing the expertise of designated doctors and nurses for looked after children.

The designated nurse role is to assist CCGs in fulfilling their responsibilities as commissioners of services to improve the health of LAC. Designated nurses achieve this by delivering expert strategic leadership and direction for looked after children, maintaining and improving the quality of services and contributing to the planning and commissioning of new services for these children.