

## **Corporate Parenting Select Committee**

### **Dr Noreen Ahmad-Bhatti, Designated Doctor for LAC, East Kent**

#### **Biography**

My name is Dr Noreen Ahmad-Bhatti. I am Consultant Paediatrician in community child health at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT). I am also the Designated Doctor for Looked After Children for East Kent.

After graduation and general medical training, I chose Paediatrics as my medical speciality, and completed my Post Graduation training in Paediatrics. I have 20 years' experience of working in the NHS in Paediatrics and have worked in Neonatology, general Paediatrics, Paediatric Neurology and Community Child Health. I have experience of carrying out Health Assessments and Adoption Medicals for Looked After Children and have also attended Adoption Panels. I also have the experience of providing medical advice on the health of the prospective Foster Carer applicants.

I was employed by the EKHUFT as the Consultant Paediatrician in Community Child Health and Designated Doctor for Looked After Children in March 2009. I am based in Ashford, Kent.

My sub-specialist clinical skills and commitments as a Consultant Community Paediatrician are:

1. Management of Epilepsy in children and adolescents with complex neurodisability and neurodevelopmental disorders. I cover Ashford and Shepway districts and on my case load, in addition to the local children, I have Looked After Children and Young People originating both from Kent as well as those placed in Kent from other local authorities.
2. Assessments of children with neurodevelopmental disorders, (Multidisciplinary Assessments for ASD).
3. Medical examination of children with suspected sexual abuse on the request of social services and police.
4. Assessment and management of children with complex needs due to physical and intellectual disability.
5. Teaching and training of the junior Paediatric Doctors - Child Protection Trainer for "Recognition and Response in Child Protection" courses.

I am also Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at King's College Hospital London and do regular Paediatric Epilepsy Clinics to support the Consultant in Paediatric Neurodisability.

I am also the Designated Doctor for LAC in East Kent and cover Ashford, Shepway, Dover/Deal, Canterbury and Thanet. Currently a formal job description is being prepared in line with the statutory guidance and intercollegiate competency framework but the main duties of the role are:

#### Inter-Agency Responsibilities

- Provide health advice on policy and individual cases to statutory and voluntary agencies, including the Police and Children's Social Care
- Liaise with children's services and other health providers on policy for health care provision for children placed out of area
- Be a member of the Corporate Parenting Board in conjunction with other health service planners/commissioners

#### Leadership and Advisory Role

- Ensure expert health advice on looked after children is available to children's social care, health care organisations, residential children's homes, foster carers, school nurses, clinicians undertaking health assessments and other health staff;
- Work with health service planners and commissioners to ensure there are robust arrangements to meet the health needs of looked after children placed outside the local area and ensure close working relationships with Local Authorities to achieve placement decisions which match the needs of children.
- Work with commissioners and providers to gain the best outcome for the child/young person within available resources.

#### Governance: Policy and Procedures

- Work with other professionals taking a strategic overview of the service to ensure robust clinical governance of local NHS services for looked after children
- Contribute to local children and young people's strategies to ensure there is a system in place to check the implementation and monitoring of individual health plans
- Advise and input into the development of practice guidance and policies for all health staff and ensure that performance against these is appropriately audited
- Work with provider health organisations across the health community to ensure that appropriate training is in place to enable health staff to fulfil their roles and responsibilities for looked after children

#### Co-ordination, Communication and Liaison

- Liaise with, advise, and support looked after children specialist health staff across the health community
- Maintain regular contact with the local health team undertaking health assessments on looked after children
- Liaise with health boards, children's social care and other service planning and commissioning organisations over health assessments and health plans for out of area placements
- Liaise with the health boards/authority child protection and safeguarding lead
- Complete and present annual report as outlined in statutory guidance

## Monitoring and Information Management

- Provide advice to all organisations across the health community on the implementation of an effective system of audit, training, and supervision
- Provide advice on monitoring of elements of contracts, service level agreements and commissioned services to ensure the quality of provision for looked after children including systems and records
- Ensure the quality of health assessments carried out meet the required standard
- Ensure each looked after child and all care leavers have full registration with a GP and dentist and that optometric checks are undertaken
- Ensure that sensitive health promotion is offered to all looked after children and young people
- Ensure implementation of health plans for individual children
- Ensure an effective system of audit is in place
- Undertake an analysis of the range of health neglect and need for health care for local looked after children – i.e. case mix analysis to inform service planning; contributing to the production of health data on looked after children across the health community
- Analyse the patterns of health care referrals and their outcomes; and evaluate the extent to which looked after children and young people's views inform the design and delivery of the local health services for them
- Use the above to influence local service planning and commissioning decisions

## Training Responsibilities

- Advise on training needs and the delivery of training for all health staff across the health community including those GPs, paediatricians and nurses undertaking health assessments and developing plans for looked after children
- Participate (as appropriate) in local undergraduate and postgraduate paediatric training to ensure health including mental health of looked after children is addressed
- Play an active part in the planning and delivery of multi-disciplinary training

## Supervision

- Provide advice, including case-focused support and supervision for health staff at all levels within organisations across the health community that deliver health services to looked after children
- Produce a supervision strategy for the health community which provides direction and options for supervision models, as appropriate to need
- Provide supervision for looked after children named specialist professionals across the health community, or ensure they are receiving appropriate supervision from elsewhere
- To attend regular, at least 6 monthly supervision from an external professional in the same field, one of these to be a face to face meeting.