Looked After Children Service-Newham

Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers Conference Presentation

by Smira Javed

East London
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Health Improvement Practitioner
(Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children-UASC)

- 10 years achieving positive outcomes

-Grass roots/Formal and informal education

-Public Health/Health Promotion

- Wellbeing Trainer

- Coaching Psychology Practitioner

-NHS Health Improvement Practitioner

Health Outcomes/ Coaching for Health/ Motivational Interviewing

Newham is one of the highest number boroughs to receive Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the UK. (After Dover & Kent, who are point of entry and Croydon where home office building is located).

UASC present with high rates of physical and mental health problems due to the trauma endured in their country of origin and during their journey.

In a bid to increase support and engagement with services, a new role and pathway was created following a successful pilot in Camden.

Key learning from a Health Improvement Practitioner whose role formed as an integral part of a new and integrated, multi-agency pathway, aimed at improving health and well-being outcomes for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.

Health Improvement Practitioner role at LAC

- Support in achieving health & well-being

Role has evidenced uptake of immunisations to 93%
& provides a valuable opportunity for follow up of the cases in a timely manner, not just on the main LAC caseload - a year later

-Initial Health Assessment Clinic

-Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings

- Developing partnership opportunities

-Multi-agency working

-Advocacy and representation at meetings

- Foster Carer/Placement support

Health Promotion

Integrated & Multi-Agency Pathway

Patient & Foster Carers/Placement Network

Health Improvement Practitioner

Community Paediatricians

Child And Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMH's)

Children's Social Care Team

Interpreting Services

Initial Health Assessment

- We have 3 clinics a month and this is where we carry out our initial health assessment

- In Month 2 we have a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Meeting

Initial Health Assessment Clinic

- 1-2-1 with Patient and Foster Carer/Placement

  - Explanation of process -Roles of professionals-Health recommendations-Services and Opportunities-Health Promotion

- Health Assessment by Paediatrician & CAMHS

- Action Planning

Initial Health Assessment Clinic

Sleep and Welcome Packs

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LOVE
and
COLOURING
Colour these beautiful illustrations and soothe your mind
SQUIGGLE
Creative
COLOURING
Colour these beautiful
illustrations and soothe your mind
SQUIGGLE

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Packs include……

- Letter for Foster Carer

- Leaflets providing health promotion
(Public Health England, Translated-Doctors of the World UK)

- Sample Specimen Pot

- Donation of Clothes/Prayer Mats

- Letter for GP (provided by Doctor)

- Blood Test Forms (provided by Doctor)

The next 3 slides will summarise the key learning from setting-up this service over the last 2 years

External Services:

Importance of building relationships, partnerships, awareness of services to improve health & well-being opportunities

1) Separated Child Foundation
2) Soccer Academy UK
3) Specialist Migrant & Asylum Seeker Services
4) Internally-Emotional Health & Wellbeing Nurse
5) Local Emotional and Well-being Services
6) Refugee Council
7) Virtual School

Service Development:

1) Creation of Letter for GP has supported practices in understanding what tests are required and helped facilitate them

2) Recommending health services that would provide easy access to results

3) Ensuring processes are in place to make sure information is disseminated and communicated to all relevant parties in the pathway, enables collaborative working

4) Admin services required to support with following-up on health outcomes

Professional Training & Engagement:

1) Attending training and workshops to inform knowledge and best practice of working with UASC. This training has included;

-Session on the cultural backgrounds of UASC to support further

-Introduction to Key Issues Facing Asylum Seeking Children and Best Practice Guide

-SHINE Training (Sexual Health Training)

-Coaching for Health Training & Motivational Interviewing

2) Engage with networking opportunities-knowledge sharing

3) Initiate collaborative working with BARTS-Here East Shine team in order to ensure opportunities for UASC to receive sexual health screening and education are available.

Moving Forward:

1) Role has been funded on a permanent basis

2) Also because of the success of the HIP role and pathway, it is hoped to be rolled out across more London boroughs

3) In the process of developing workshops to support UASC and Foster Carers

4) Identifying partnerships and services which have increased with the change in COVID-19 measures

5) Continuing with training and development opportunities that can be of further value to UASC

6) Continue to develop the evaluation of services

Feedback from Evaluations:

UASC Quote
"All members of the health team were friendly and listened to me. I am very happy".

Keyworker Quote:
"One of my young people loved the colouring book so much, he was so inspired that he started designing trainers".

Evaluation:
Consistently high rating for UASC feeling respected, listened to & feeling comfortable in asking questions

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Any Questions?