

Health Passports for our Looked After Children in West Berkshire

The requirement for Care Leavers to have health passports; that is information about their health history comes from the specific recommendation from the NICE SCIE PH 28 guidance for Looked after Children and Young People.

Recommendation 48 states the need to: 'Conduct a comprehensive health consultation when young people move on to independent living'

Whose health and wellbeing will benefit?

Looked-after young people (including care leavers)

Who should take action?

- Social workers and social work managers.
- Leaving Care teams.
- Designated health professionals.

What action should they take?

- Make sure that when young people are offered their final statutory health assessment all available details of their medical history can be discussed.
- Make sure young people are supported to understand their health and medical information.
- Make sure young people are supported and encouraged to attend their final statutory health assessment.
- Make sure that if a young person declines to attend their final statutory health assessment they are offered the choice of having a written copy of their basic medical history (such as immunisations and childhood illnesses) and that a health professional, in partnership with the young person's social worker, ensures that the young person knows how to obtain their social care and detailed health history. “

This is implemented within Berkshire HealthCare Foundation trust.

In accordance with the guidance, young people are offered a health passport at their final health assessment, usually at age 17.

The passport was developed in consultation with children and young people looked after by three local authorities in the West of Berkshire.

The passport consists of a ring binder with sections where the young person can fill in information on their personal history. They are also given copies of their health plans whilst they have been looked after in conjunction with birth details and their immunisations. They then have the opportunity to discuss this further with the Specialist Nurse.

If a young person lives beyond 20 miles then the passport and details are sent to the young person via the social worker / carer. They can call the specialist nurse if they wish to discuss any information that they have received.

The Specialist nurse makes sure that a record is made on the health plan that the health passport has been given. This would previously have been recorded on the actual assessment which is not sent to social care.

BHFT are also looking at implementing the health history app developed by Southern Care.

The current health passport is available on [/Health Passport.pdf](#). It is currently being reviewed.

The Leaving Care Team work along with Looked After Children's nurses to make sure that all Care Leavers at age 18 have a health passport.

How we measure our performance

All children between the ages of 16-18 are tracked to make sure that the date of their last health assessment is recorded before they leave care aged 18 and the health passport is handed over. When the health passport has been handed over the LAC nurse notifies the social work team which is then recorded on the Pathway plan.

The Team Manager from the Leaving Care Team tracks progress via a fortnightly report from RAISE. Currently all children who are going to turn 18 years of age by 22.02.16 and are eligible for a health passport have one. Given the LAC nurses start compiling information from 16 onwards they are able to provide a health passport should the young person exit from care earlier. The point at which a passport is handed over is decided on a case by case basis.

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