

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**



Report of:	<i>Kelly Dudding, Named Nurse Children in Care HDFT</i>
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Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board- 18 October 2022
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Subject:	<i>HDFT Children in Care Performance Report</i>
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life
Your Health and wellbeing
Your Voice and Influence
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Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

Yes / No

What is the purpose of this report?

To share with the board the new commissioning arrangements under the Tees Valley CiC Service and to also update board with progress to date.

Report Background

Introduction

From 01st April 2022 the responsibility of initial health assessments (IHA's) and review health assessments (RHA's) for South Tees NHS Trust was amalgamated into a Tees Valley Children in Care contract.

HDFT is responsible for the timely co-ordination of IHA's which includes gathering consent and pertinent health and social information on a child entering the care system to inform the IHA appointment. The IHA appointment is completed by the acute hospital trust and disseminated to social care.

It is the responsibility of the Tees Valley Children in Care (TV CiC) service to co-ordinate and undertake RHA's for any child in care in the borough of Middlesbrough. TV CiC practitioners will also undertake RHA's for a child placed out of area within a 30-mile radius of their home address.

The TV CiC service is comprised of the following staff:

- 0.5 WTE Band 8a Named Nurse Children in Care
- 1.0 WTE Band 7 Specialist Nurse Children in Care
- 4.1 WTE Band 6 Nurse Children in Care
- 4.1 WTE Band 5 Staff Nurse Children in Care
- 0.9 WTE Band 4 Data & Analyst Administrator
- 2.9 WTE Band 3 Administrator

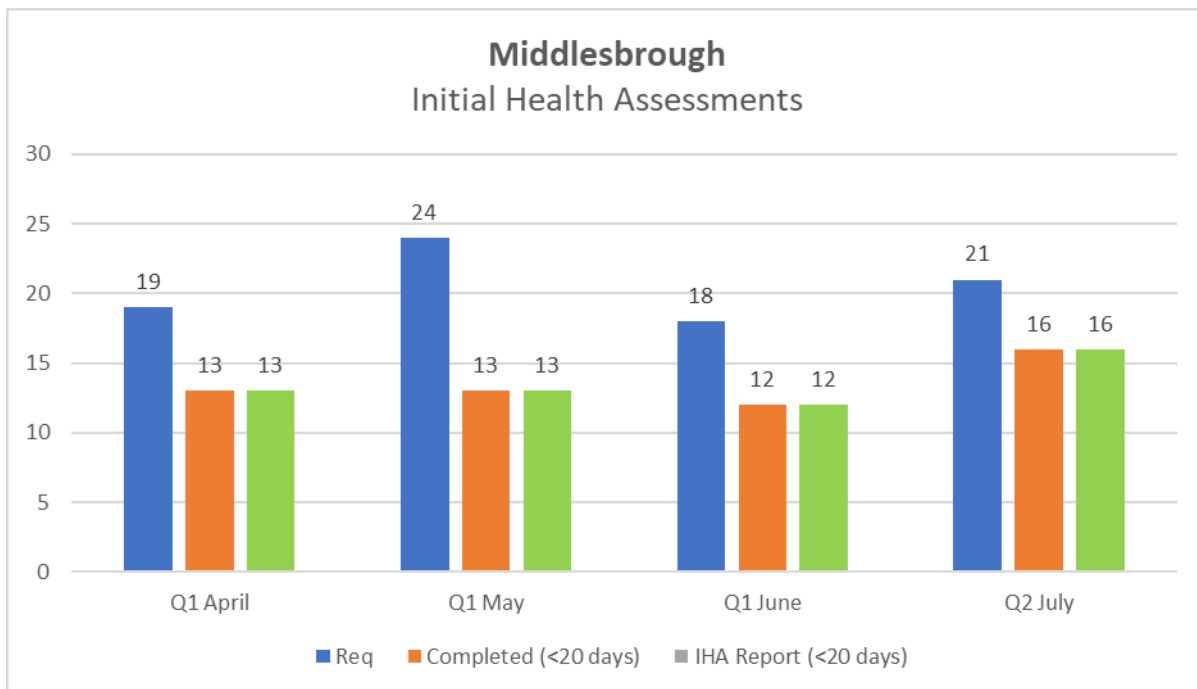
The CiC practitioners undertake RHA's with the best interests of the child at the heart of interventions. We liaise with caseload holders (Health Visitors and School Nurses) prior to and following the RHA to ensure that the assessment is informed and is a holistic approach.

Initial Health Assessments (IHA's)

Since 01st April 2022 HDFT co-ordinates the completion of any Initial Health Assessments and monitors the completion and reporting of these by Community Paediatricians from South Tees NHS Trust.

Since the transfer of responsibility to HDFT we are notified by the Local Authority of a child entering the care system and we collate notification consent and book the child onto the clinic via Cammis. We notify the allocated social worker of the appointment and the social worker is responsible for notifying the parent and/or carer. All IHA assessments continue to be undertaken face to face.

The acute hospital trust is then responsible for assessing the child, completing the report and disseminating to HDFT and to the local authority.



There have been significant, ongoing challenges in relation to IHA compliance which HDFT, the local authority and the acute hospital trust recognise and are working in an attempt to rectify the situation.

All three partners meet on a weekly basis and discuss any outstanding IHA appointments, establish if additional clinic appointments are required and liaise in relation to child was not brought. HDFT have also raised with the local authority that a delay in providing notification consents is creating a delay in the child being booked to attend for an IHA.

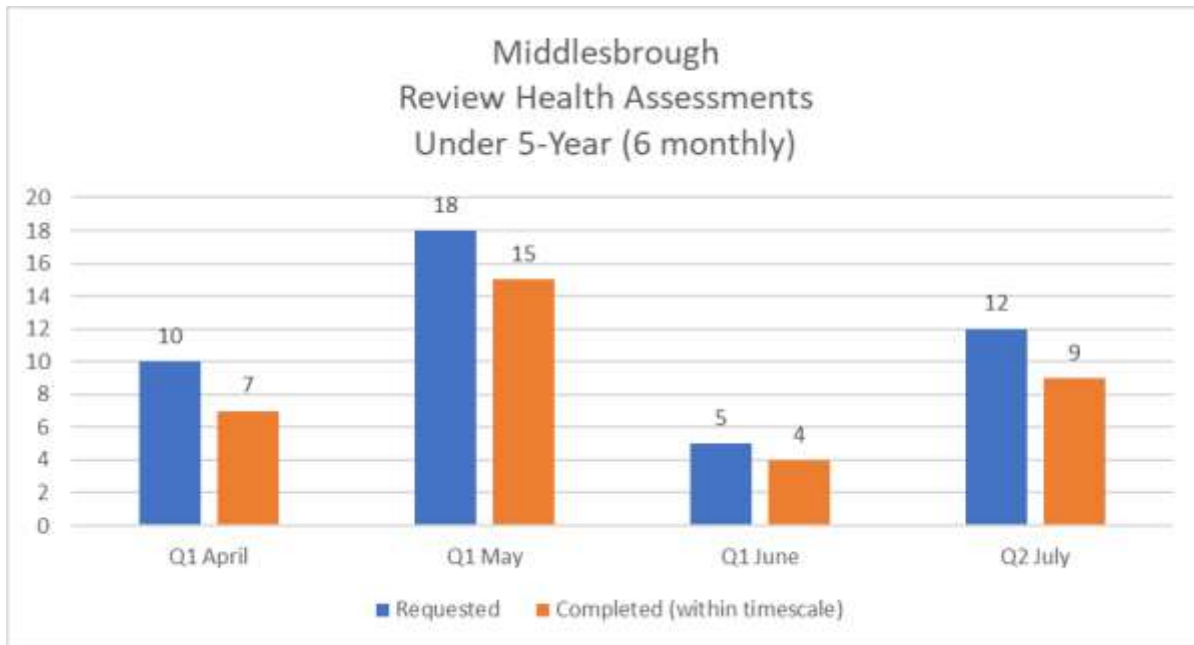
It remains the responsibility of the social worker to notify the parent / carer of the appointment details and if for whatever reason the appointment is to be cancelled / rearranged then this must be agreed by the service manager.

Review Health Assessments

As per statutory guidance set out in 'Promoting the Health of Looked After Children' (DFE, DOH 2015), children in care under the age of 5-year are provided a health review twice yearly and children in care over the age of 5-year have an annual review.

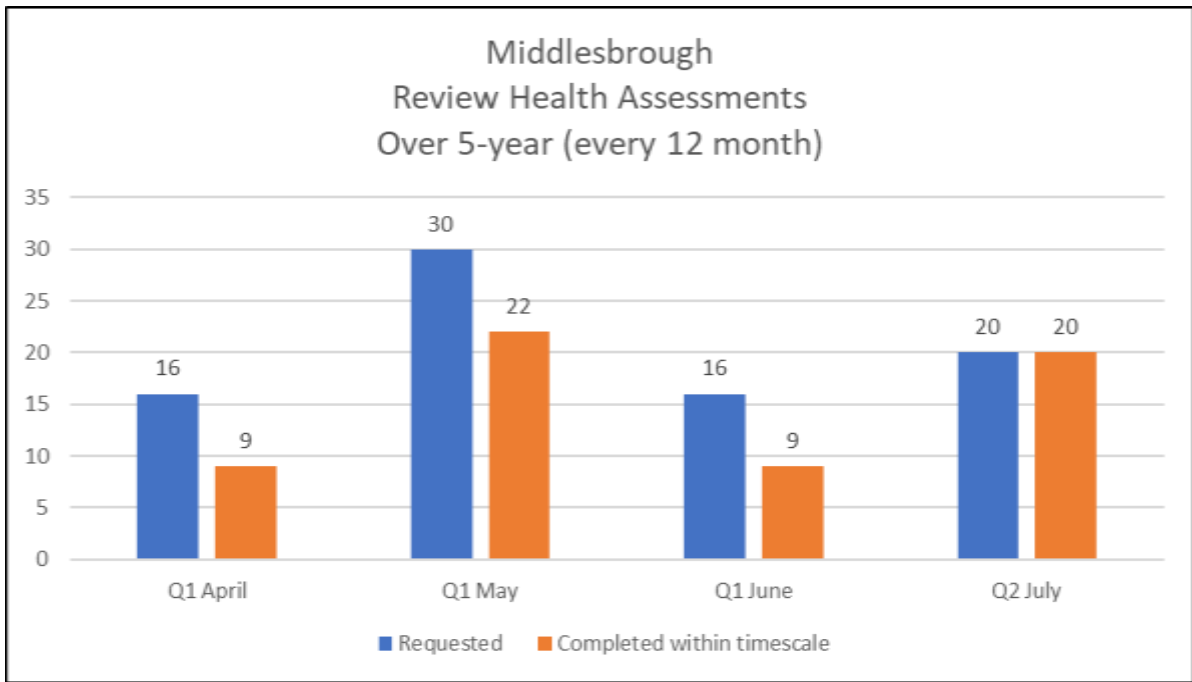
All RHA's are undertaken at a face to face contact, usually in the child's home, though HDFT have the philosophy that they will see a child in the venue of their own request.

Compliance to Review Health Assessments (RHA) completed within the timeframe of 6 monthly for children under 5 years.



Middlesbrough			
Under 5-Year % in timescales			
Q1 April	Q1 May	Q1 June	Q2 July
70%	83.3%	80%	75.0%

Compliance to Review Health Assessments (RHA) completed within the timeframe of 12 monthly for children over 5-15 years.

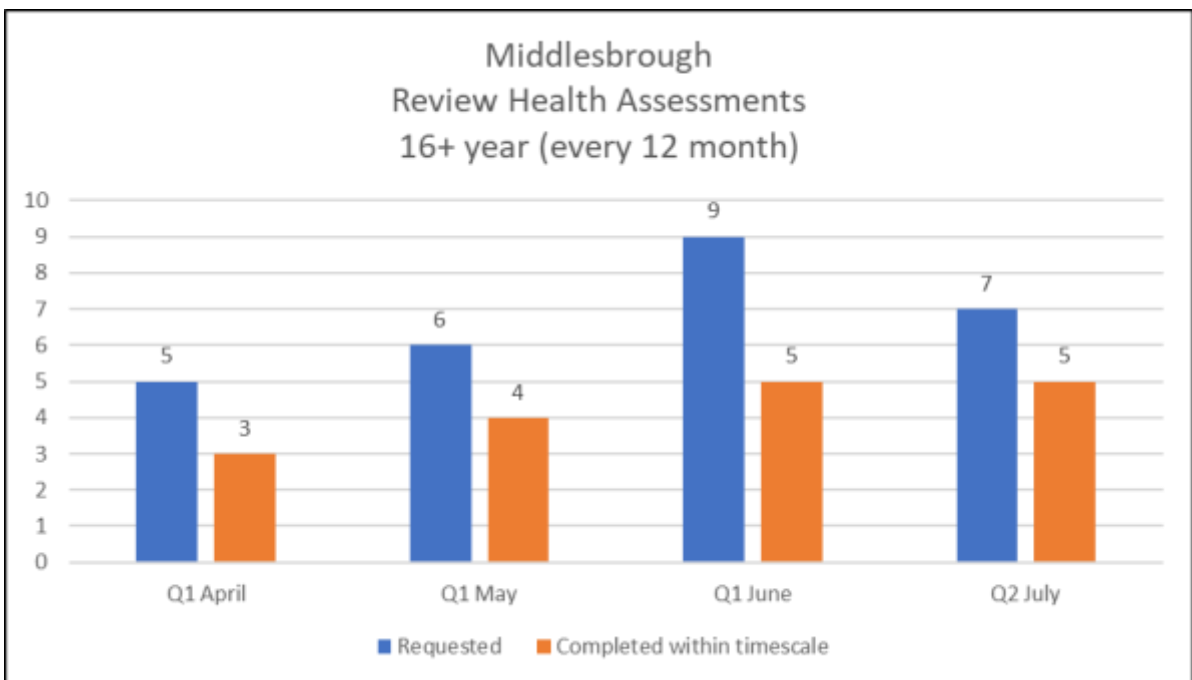


Middlesbrough

5-15 year % in timescales

Q1 April	Q1 May	Q1 June	Q2 July
56.3%	73.3%	56.2%	100%

Compliance to Review Health Assessments (RHA) completed within the timeframe of 12 monthly for children over 16+ years.



Middlesbrough			
16+ year % in timescales			
Q1 April	Q1 May	Q1 June	Q2 July
60%	66.7%	55.6%	71.4%

Challenges that have contributed to the timely compliance being less than desirable is as follows:

- Child living out of area (beyond a 30-mile radius) and the RHA request not being undertaken within timescales.
- Placement changes for CiC and the Tees Valley CiC service not being notified of the placement change.
- Staffing capacity throughout the mobilisation of the Tees Valley CiC service.
- By request of the young person due to exams.

Progressing through mobilisation to business as usual, HDFT will be able to report on registration with a GP, dentist and subject to EHCP, as per KPI's and LQR's laid out in the service specification.

As we are all aware, there are ongoing challenges in relation to timely access of dental services, despite children subject to care orders. Prior to HDFT becoming responsible for CiC in Middlesbrough there was extensive work undertaken in relation to a Dental Health Pathway. This continues to be a work in progress and it is anticipated that it will be embedded in practice by November 2022.

In addition, HDFT have also implemented a School Based Immunisation & CiC Pathway that ensures the immunisation uptake for CiC is satisfactory. This has been devised and implemented into practice since May 2022 and as a result we have been successful in 3 CiC having their outstanding immunisations administered.



Children in Care & School Based Immuni:



case study - immunisation pathway

The TV CiC service have begun embedding monthly quality assurance processes which will identify themes and any areas of improvement. This will be addressed with practitioners through training and supervision, bespoke for CiC.

We have three monthly supervision for all practitioners in the TV CiC service; band 5's are offered a peer supervision group and band 6 & band 7 are offered supervision with a Named Nurse Safeguarding Children or Named Nurse Children in Care. HDFT also have a robust escalation process to ensure the safety and well-being of CIC. This has already been implemented on several occasions and we have been successful in professional challenge that has resulted in the placement of a family of 4 children being changed to meet their needs.

Summary

HDFT were commissioned in April 2022 to co-ordinate and deliver on IHA's and RHA's. Despite the challenge that has been encountered through mobilisation we have been able to offer a service to our CIC to ensure their physical and emotional health needs are being addressed. While compliance has been below what we would expect to see, HDFT are confident that as we progress to business as usual, this will significantly increase.

Appendices

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Why is this being recommended?

N/A

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

N/A

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Risk

N/A

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

N/A

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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