



Paper No.	
	Tick One ✓
For discussion	
For approval	✓
For information/noting	

Date of Trust Board Meeting:

Confidential or Public Agenda: Public

Agenda item: Annual Delegated Statutory Functions
& Corporate Parenting Report,
November 2017-18

1.0 Introduction

Annual Delegated Statutory Functions & Corporate Parenting Report 2017-18.
The report is presented for consideration for approval by Trust Board.
SH62 Letter to Trust Executive Director of Social Work. Circular OSS 01/2018,
Roles & Responsibilities of Directors of HSCB & HSCT for Children in Need, Child
Protection and Looked After Children.

2.0 Background information

This is an annual report on the discharge of delegated statutory functions in respect of services undertaken by the social work & social care workforce within the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (The Trust) covering the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 the scheme of delegation has been updated and details are presented in Circular OSS/01/2018. The scheme provides an overarching assurance framework for the discharge of statutory social care functions. The scheme requires the Trust to produce a biannual report addressing how it has discharged those statutory functions pertaining to social care issues.

3.0 Brief summary of key points contained in the paper/s

During this reporting period the Trust has experienced a number of challenges in relation to the discharge of delegated statutory functions. Such difficulties are not entirely unique to the Trust during 2017/2018. All issues have been raised with HSCB. Some require a regional approach to improvement, as outlined in the following areas;

Unallocated Cases

As highlighted in the 2016/17 report, the Trust continues to be unable to allocate services to children. The number of unallocated children's cases has increased by approximately 50% across all areas. At 31st March 2018 there were 128 unallocated children at Gateway in comparison to 59 in March 2017. In family intervention teams there were 72 unallocated children at 31st March 2018 in comparison to 37 in March 2017. In family support services there are 200 children unallocated at 31st March 2018 compared to 105 in March 2017.

Lakewood Secure Care Centre

As reported in 2016/17 Lakewood Regional Secure facility has been operating under continuity planning measures to stabilise the staffing compliment and progress the opening of a third home. The Trust has worked closely with HSCB Department of Health and other Trust's to enhance the stability of this service. The business continuity arrangements were stood down by the Trust in conjunction with the HSCB at the Chidrens Services Improvement Board meeting held on 16 March 2018 as Lakewood had returned to routine operating arrangements.

Fostering Service

During this reporting period the Trust has continued to respond to increased demand for fostering placements, resulting in an increased reliance on independent agency placements at significant additional cost to the Trust. To address such challenges the Trust is working locally and regionally to support an increase in the recruitment of foster carers. Additionally the Trust has increased the fostering staffing structure, supporting enhanced recruitment activity and is providing additional direct support to existing carers.

Adult Physical Disability Services

In physical disability services there remains a lack of designated living and respite options for service users under 65 with a physical, sensory or neurological condition. Small numbers of service users who have these needs influence the limited development of supported living options. In this reporting year the Trust opened a facility with 13 supported living apartments, in partnership with Cedar and Triangle.

The risks of dysphagia for service users with speech and language recommendations continue to present as an area of concern in managing the provision of care safely. This is a complex issue. The challenge of ensuring staff are trained, the environment is safe and the service user is monitored continues to pose a practice concern across the region. In this reporting year, the Trust has led a quality improvement initiative to address this concern and will continue to actively ensure a high standard of safe practice in this area.

Adult Learning Disability Services

In adult learning disability services the context of an ageing population continues to set a challenging context for service delivery. Specialist services require development and support to meet the service users needs within supported living, dementia services, day care and day opportunities particularly for those in retirement.

In this reporting year, the Trust has reduced delayed discharges from Muckamore Hospital by 50%. Presently 6 people with a learning disability who are fit for discharge from Muckamore Hospital are delayed given the complexity of meeting their needs within a community setting. The Trust places significant emphasis on developing and supporting placement options to enable service users to live in community settings – this includes exploration of how facilities for people with a forensic history can be made available.

The lack of availability of Supported People funding as reported in 2016/17 continues to impact on the adult disability services approach to planning and developing independent living options for people with a learning disability to hold individual tenancies. Complex issues to support individuals are being managed on a case by case basis. The Trust is actively influencing key stakeholders to ensure an appropriate strategic response is provided to meet the service user's needs in this area.

Adult Mental Health Services

During this reporting period the mental health directorate has experienced considerable difficulties in ensuring the provision of a seamless Approved Social Work (ASW) service. This has occurred due to significant staffing issues linked to sick leave and other absences across the directorate. A cross directorate working group has been established to consider options to enable the Trust to respond to need.

During this reporting period, there have been challenges in maintaining the unbroken social work professional line of accountability within the mental health directorate given the absence of the social work lead. Significant efforts have been made to maintain the appropriate level of professional accountability for social work staff during this difficult period, however this has impacted on the level of support and supervision provided to social workers.

Regional acute bed pressures have impacted on the ASW's ability to convey patients in a timely way for admission to hospital under the Mental Health Order. The Trust continues to contribute to the regional approach to addressing such practice issues arising out of acute bed pressures. The Trust has initiated a review of practice within the Trust in an effort to reduce unnecessary delays in discharging patients.

Domiciliary Care Services

The increase and demand in the pressures emerging from the lack of capacity in domiciliary care continues to lead to increasing levels of unmet need. This is managed within the Trust, with older people services focusing on attempting to restructure and transform the ability of the Trust to deliver care.

4.0 Recommendation/s for the Trust Board (please state if the paper/s is for information/noting or for approval by Board members)

For approval.

Lead Director: Mr Brendan Whittle

Designation: Director of Childrens Services & Executive Director of Social Worker

Date: 11 May 2018