



	Tick One ✓
For discussion	
For approval	✓
For information/noting	

**Date of Trust Board Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Confidential or Public Agenda:** Public

**Agenda item:** Interval Delegated Statutory Functions  
& Corporate Parenting Report,  
November 2017

### 1.0 Introduction

Interval Delegated Statutory Functions & Corporate Parenting Report 2017  
The report is presented for consideration for approval by Trust Board.

### 2.0 Background information

This is an interval 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. 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 Executive Director of Social Work is reporting significant compliance with delegated statutory functions. Some of the ongoing challenges in relation to the provision of care across social care and social work are as follows;

#### Mental Health

The mental health directorate are continuing to provide Approved Social Work duties as necessary; however these are being delivered within the context of a reduced workforce. This workforce issue is being addressed through the development of an ASW workforce strategy and through regular consideration at the Trust's Social Work Executive meeting chaired by the EDSW.

#### Disability

Quality assurance of delegated statutory functions and improvement planning arrangements are on-going across disability and sensory impairment services. Significant work is ongoing to address the delayed discharge of 12 people from Muckamore Hospital.

## **Older People & Primary Care**

Within older peoples services a key challenge relates to the continued increase in the number of complex discharges from hospital. The development of the Discharge Hub / Discharge to Assess Model is ongoing and will ensure a successful framework for the management of complex discharges and social care assessment in the person's own environment. Staffing issues are currently hindering the progress of this model. The lack of immediate access to social care is delaying the progression of the complex discharges within the discharge to assess framework.

## **Children's Services including Mental Health and Disability**

During the period of reporting there is a decrease in the number of children in need and a reduced number of children on the child protection register. These are encouraging themes and maybe attributed to the emphasis on early intervention approaches within the Trust.

The process for the tracking of placement moves for children in care is now more robust and is monitored closely by EDSW and senior managers on a monthly basis. Whilst the number of children in inappropriate placements has increased slightly to 15, the number of placement moves for children in care has reduced, from the incorrect data presented in May 2017.

The management of unallocated cases continues to be a challenge within children's safeguarding services. At the time of reporting there were 146 unallocated cases. Significant improvement achieved in 2016/17 was not maintained given the additional resource to reduce the number of unallocated cases was temporary and when the resource terminated the number unallocated again increased. The Trust is planning to implement a reform process to address the inherent challenges which currently impacts on children and their families, as their assessed needs for support and intervention are currently not being met.

Within safeguarding services there are a number of children in unregulated placements (detailed in Corporate parenting report section 3), due to delays in completing assessments within timescales, residential placements which are not consistent with regulation and where children remain in a placement where the social worker has assessed it is in their best interests however, it is not consistent with regulations.

### **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:** 10 November 2017