



Paper No. SET/23/17	
	Tick One ✓
For discussion	
For approval	✓
For information/noting	

Date of Trust Board Meeting: 31 May 2017

Confidential or Public Agenda: Public

Agenda item: Delegated Statutory Functions &
Corporate Parenting Report November
2016/17

1.0 Introduction

Delegated Statutory Functions & Corporate Parenting Report 2016/17
The report is presented for consideration for approval by Trust Board.

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 2016 to 30th March 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 has led a review of the Trust Social Work Executive forum and refined quality assurance arrangements for the review and monitoring of delegated statutory functions across the Trust. The Director is reporting significant compliance with delegated statutory functions across all relevant directorates.

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 2016/2017. All issues have been raised with HSCB. Some require a regional approach to improvement, as outlined in the following areas;

Looked After Children

The Trust continues to experience difficulty in meeting the individual needs of children for appropriate placements. There has been an increase in demand for placements during this reporting period due to an increase of forty four looked after children. This difficulty has been compounded by the reduction in the number of

foster carers over the preceding three years with the loss of forty foster carers. Additionally the significant growth of kinship or family placement together with the introduction of the kinship care standards has placed additional pressure on fostering teams who are actively contributing to a regional fostering service recruitment process. As a result of the increase in demand and the Trust's inability to respond to same there is an increasing number of children in unsuitable care placements and an increase in a number of moves that children have experienced. To respond to demands the Trust is increasing use of private agency placements which are costly.

Unallocated Cases

The Trust has continued to be unable to allocate cases for family support assessment and intervention during this reporting period. The Trust continues to experience variation in relation to the number of unallocated cases. The number of unallocated cases peaked at 208 in January 2017 and reduced to 105 at 31st March 2017, which is a reduction from March 2016, when 179, children were awaiting a service.

Lakewood

During this reporting period (particularly from December 2016), the Trust experienced considerable difficulty in the staffing of the Lakewood facility. In response, the Trust was required to restrict admissions to stabilise the service and ensure the implementation of an appropriate recovery plan. Presently a significant number of measures have been implemented to enhance the staffing quota. Additional support has been provided from across children's services to support the residential care team in meeting the needs of individual young people in care in these facilities.

Children with Disabilities

The Trust has experienced difficulty in providing bespoke placements for children with learning disabilities who present with complex challenging behaviours. Given their individual needs these children cannot live within group living arrangements and require specialist placement. This is a challenge which is experienced by other Trusts. A review of current provision across the region is underway to explore how Trusts can respond to this growing demand.

Older People's Services

As reported in 2015/16, the Trust continues to experience a challenge in relation to the lack of capacity in domiciliary care services. The Trust continues to experience difficulty in sourcing care packages from the independent sector. This has impacted significantly on patient flow and unscheduled care as some patients are delayed in acute beds when packages cannot be sourced. The Trust is continuing to address this difficulty across a number of forums. This is a regional issue.

The Trust continues to place significant emphasis on the quality assurance of nursing, residential and domiciliary care from independent providers. During this reporting period concerns in respect of Dunmurray Manor were identified, subsequently an investigation is underway by the Commissioner for Older People.

Mental Health Services

Within mental health services recruitment and retention of social work team leaders has impacted on the directorate's ability to ensure clear lines of professional accountability for social work during this reporting period. Two new team leaders are now in post. This temporary reduction in team leaders has had a significant impact on the Trust's ability to undertake the duties of the 'designated officer' role in adult protection. A review of the discharge of the duties of this role is currently being undertaken, to ensure the Trust can meet demands.

The Trust has ensured the provision of approved social work duties however workforce issues are impacting on the continued management of the delivery of this specialist activity. This has been added to the mental health directorate's risk register and has been considered at the Trust's Social Work Executive. A workforce plan has been developed to address concerns; however this appears to be a regional practice issue which may require a regional solution.

Adult Disability Services

Within disability services there continues to be challenges in discharging delegated statutory functions due to a lack of designated living and respite options for people under 65 with a physical sensory or neurological condition

As reported in previous annual reports there continue to be a lack of dedicated community based options for people with forensic history.

Lack of community placements continue to contribute to delays in discharge arrangements from Muckamore Abbey. Presently there are twelve people with a learning disability fit for discharge who are unable to have their needs met within a community setting

As adults with learning disability age there continues to be an increasing profile of older carers. The Trust are leading work with individual families and key stakeholders to provide appropriate services to this ageing population.

Emerging challenges in the provision of delegated statutory functions in this reporting year focus on a lack of additional funding through supported people to develop supported living opportunities for people delayed in hospital or where their current home circumstances break down. This continued lack of investment will impact on adult disability to plan and develop living options independently within the community. The Trust are actively working the HSCB and other stakeholders to explore appropriate responses to these service challenges.

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: 23 May 2017