



Paper No. SET/80/19	
	Tick One ✓
For discussion	
For approval	✓
For information/noting	

Date of Trust Board Meeting: 27 November 2019

Confidential or Public Agenda: Public

Agenda item: Interim Report on the Delegated
Statutory Functions & Corporate
Parenting Report, November 2019

1.0 Introduction

Interim Report on Delegated Statutory Functions & Corporate Parenting Report 1st April – 30th September 2019.

The report is presented for consideration for approval by Trust Board.

2.0 Background information

This is the interim report on the discharge of delegated statutory functions and Corporate Parenting (CC302), within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust); covering the period 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2019.

This report provides assurance and analysis of the Trust's provision of delegated statutory functions across social care services. The report also addresses the leadership and regulation of social care and social work profession. The Trust is reporting that it is satisfied that delegated statutory function requirements have achieved reasonable compliance across all service areas.

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

During this reporting period the Trust has continued to experience a number of challenges in relation to the discharge of delegated statutory functions. All issues have been raised with HSCB and are presented in detail in the report. Some require a regional approach to improvement.

Children's Services

Unallocated Cases

As highlighted for a number of years, the Trust continues to be unable to allocate services to children in need. During this reporting period the Trust has reduced the number of children waiting for services from 153 at 31st March 2019 to 133 at 30th September 2019. Demand for services within children's disability continues to increase there are 46 unallocated cases within this reporting period which will require further review.

Fostercare Provision for Children in Care

During this reporting period the Trust has continued to respond to increased demand for fostering placements, (increase of 34 children in care) resulting in an increased reliance on independent agency placements at significant additional cost to the Trust. To address such challenges the Trust has been working locally and regionally to support an increase in the recruitment of foster carers, and 25 new families have now been recruited, however in this period 34 foster carers also left the service. An increase in the number of children received into care increases the demand for placements exceeding the Trusts capacity to offer placement choice and meet the needs of some children in care – 14 children are deemed to be residing in inappropriate placements given their assessed needs.

Leaving Care

The Trust continues to find it difficult to allocate personal advisors (PA) to all young people leaving care who require the support of a personal advisor. This is due to recruitment issues and also the increase in the number of young people requiring a PA. Presently 18 young people do not have personal adviser and 18 young people do not have a pathway plan.

Kinship Assessments/ Unregulated Placements

Increased demand for kinship fostering assessments has impacted on the fostering service's capacity to meet statutory responsibility to complete assessments within a 12 week timescale. This has been an influencing factor on the increased number of unregulated placements within the Trust. Within this reporting period there has been a slight decrease from 61 at 31st March 2019 to 53 at 30th September 2019. The Trust is working to establish systems across safeguarding and cared for services to monitor and ensure appropriate reporting to HSCB of unregulated placements, in recognition that the Trust has not been compliant with this expectation to date.

Adult Mental Health Services

Whilst the mental health directorate has discharged its statutory duties satisfactorily within this reporting period, it has experienced challenges relating to the recruitment and retention of social work team leaders. Whilst these posts continue to prove difficult to appoint and retain, the Trust Human Resource department and social work lead are undertaking a review of this post and its considerable responsibilities.

During this reporting period the mental health directorate has experienced considerable difficulties in ensuring the provision of a seamless Approved Social Work (ASW) service. A Trust ASW strategy has been agreed and is being progressed to address some of the workforce challenges for this professional staff group. The implementation of the Capacity legislation has placed additional pressures on this area of practice

Adult Learning Disability Services

The lack of availability of supported people funding reported since 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. This challenge is now impacting on service users who are delayed in hospital or in the community facing a breakdown in their current living

arrangements.

Within this reporting period, the trust currently has 10 delayed discharges from Muckamore Hospital. There continues to be a lack of dedicated community based options for service users with a forensic history. This challenge is currently being explored on a regional basis which includes the consideration of the development of a community based low secure facility.

The service has also identified that the lack of Domiciliary Care provision due to difficulties in social care staff recruitment is having an impact on the delivery of care packages across the system and continues to be reported through the risk register in 2019.

Primary Care and Older People

Domiciliary Care Services

As reported previously the Trust continues to experience an increase and demand in the pressures emerging from the lack of capacity within domiciliary care services leading to increasing levels of unmet need. The Trust is presently a project site for the regional reform of care and support at home intended to address some of the challenges experienced in providing this service.

Independent Sector Governance

The Trust continues to experience significant challenges in addressing the increase in complaints, whistleblowing and quality issues within the independent care home sector. This issue has been placed on the Trust corporate risk register

Approved Social Work

Within older people and primary care services there are a limited number of social workers which impacts on the directorate's ability to discharge the delegated statutory functions. Plans are being progressed to increasing the number of social work posts in this area.

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: Bria Mongan

Designation: Director of Children's Services & Executive Director of Social Work

Date: 20 November 2019