

IHA progress report for Corporate Parenting Committee.

NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) are commissioned to provide the IHA's (Initial Health Assessment) for Basildon Brentwood and Thurrock. Within this time of Covid 19, NELFT have advised that none of their Pediatrician have been redeployed and each IHA is been risk assessed by the Pediatrician to ensure the best possible way forward for seeing or virtually seeing a child,. From the very beginning of Covid19 the decided to reduce the mitigating risk to the service would be 'not to stop'. From the Designated Nurses, a guidance was produced to support the Pediatrician discussing the risk and how best to manage it. At the present time there are 20 outstanding IHA's, 13 of these have been offered an appointment and the team are working on appointment offers for the remaining 7.

There are still capacity challenges to undertake the IHA assessment of Thurrock children and this has been highlighted as a problem across a number of local authorities including Basildon Brentwood and Thurrock. It has come to the attention of the CCG regarding a number of authorities who have had their Pediatrician be redeployed or had to isolate due to Covid 19 and subsequently, this has put an extra pressure on a number of Provider to deliver a service that was already depleted before Covid 19 started. Following this, a Covid 19 Work Steam has been developed and is an ongoing process, and we are in discussion with the Provider on how best to go forwards and bring in new changes to the IHA system and utilizing the knowledge and Skill we have developed in Covid 19 and taking them forward once we exit this very worrying time as the response from the young children regarding the virtual IHA's assessment, have been extremely positive.

Report End.

Ann Kavanagh

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