



Press Release

For release on Thursday 14 June 2018

Children in Care Council celebrate passport to health

Healthcare leaders have launched a healthcare passport especially for children leaving care

The Health Passport is a new initiative brought about by the Children in Care Council and Open Door, who visited Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group's Board in 2017. They expressed a desire to know more about how local healthcare works and how they could feed in to plans.

During discussions the young people said it was difficult to navigate all the health care services they used, and the information they needed to be able to stay on top of their own healthcare was not always easy to find. It would be especially useful to help them take control of their healthcare when leaving care and going on to be independent.

In response to this Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group offered to create a health passport to enable young people to take charge of their health and wellbeing on leaving care. This has been co-designed with young people as representatives of the Children in Care Council, the Designated Looked After Children's Nurse and the CCG.

Mandy Ansell, Accountable Officer, NHS Thurrock CCG said:

"We were delighted to support the young people in designing something that they will find useful in helping them as they grow up and eventually leave care. It's a pocket sized guide that can be shared with GPs, Nurses, Dentists, and any healthcare provider. It contains details of vaccinations, medications, allergies and even first aid tips. We hope this co-designed resource will ease the transition to being an independent adult."

A young person, who is Chair of the Children in Care Council and was directly involved in the passport design said:

"All of us found it a great opportunity to have been a part of the commissioning process for the health passport. It is a piece of work that we are all very proud of and hope will serve the needs of looked-after children and care leavers for many generations to come. We look forward to working with the NHS, CCG and NELFT on any health-related projects in the future and welcome their affirmative attitude to the health needs of looked-after children."



Cllr Sue Little, Portfolio Holder for Children and Adult Social Care at Thurrock Council, said: “I am thrilled that the Health Passport initiative has become a reality, with young people being at the forefront it means they can look after their own health and inspire others to do the same. Understanding their healthcare and knowing what to do in an emergency not only teaches our young people vital skills, but also makes them more resilient for the future.”

There are 315 looked after children in Thurrock in May 2018, 50 children turned 18 and will leave care and go on to be independent adults.

1000 copies of the passport have been delivered and the first children have been able to benefit from its use. Children aged from 13 years old will be able to benefit from using the passport.

ENDS

For more information or to arrange an interview, email: louise.banks3@nhs.net or call 07775 406849.

About Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for the commissioning and delivery of local health care services. The CCG buys healthcare from hospitals, community and mental health services and some specialist services (service contracts with GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians are managed by [NHS England](#)).

Driven by clinicians, the CCG is supported by a wide range of professionals and strategic partners, to commission and deliver joined up seamless quality services to the public, patients and carers of Thurrock. Our vision is that the health and care experience for the people of Thurrock will be improved as a result of our working together. Further information about Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group is available from www.thurrockccg.nhs.uk

About the Children in Care Council and Open Door

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) is a group of 11-21 year-olds that shares its wishes and feelings about care in Thurrock. Anyone in care is welcome to join, contact: 07975503275 or email: cicc@opendoorservices.org

Open Door – Young People Looked After team offers support for young people aged between 8 and 25 who are or who have been in care. Contact: 01375 389 879 for more information or email: ypla@opendoorservices.org