Decisions Required

1. Note the significant changes to the Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH) Health Team for Children Looked After (CLA) in the autumn of 2014 and support the planned development and growth of the service through:
   a. Integrated Care Pathway
   b. Transition Health Summary
   c. Enhanced sexual health provision
   d. On site immunization
   e. Development of a business case for additional nursing resource within the Health Team for CLA to support children age 0-10.

2. Note the work being done by the Health Team for CLA to liaise with Public Health with the aim of restoring funding of leisure passes for young people in the care of the local authority in order to promote physical activity and reduce the risk of physical and mental health problems.

Purpose of the Report and Summary

“Most children become looked after as a result of abuse and neglect. Although they have many of the same health issues as their peers, the extent of these is often greater because of their past experiences. For example, almost half of children in care have a diagnosable mental health disorder and two-thirds have special educational needs. Delays in identifying and meeting their emotional well-being and mental health needs can have far reaching effects on all aspects of their lives, including their chances of reaching their potential and leading happy and healthy lives as adults.”

Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children, statutory guidance from the Department of Health and Department for Education, March 2015. National guidance and legislation has recently been revised and gives clarity on the roles and responsibilities of agencies when considering the health needs of CLA.

This report provides an update and overview of the service currently provided for CLA by HRCH and will aim to highlight challenges, aspirations and areas for future service development.

The HRCH CLA Health Team had significant staff changes in the autumn of 2014.
following difficulties in recruitment but have now have permanent staff with clearer leadership delivering a health service for CLA. Relationships with partner agencies are now established and the team is engaged with the wider network caring for CLA. There is commitment from both the LBH and HRCH to embed an integrated care pathway in practice.

Audit has been used to understand the position of the service and implement action plans which mean a higher standard of care for Hounslow’s looked after population.

Health Assessments are now completed to an agreed standard for children placed both in and out of borough. The implementation of Transition Summaries for care leavers in planned for January 2016.

The HRCH CLA Health Team has worked with the therapeutic team to ensure that they are able to contribute to the assessment of CLA’s mental health needs.

**Next Steps**

- LBH and HRCH to meet and develop the draft joint working policy into an integrated care pathway (from December 2015)
- Pilot the Transition Health Summary (January 2016)
- Meet with commissioners to present the business case for further nursing resource for the HRCH CLA Service – to include an enhanced service for 0—10 years and assessment of children and young people placed out of borough (January 2016)
- Continued liaison with the wider Sexual Health Service and HRCH Immunisation Lead will facilitate an enhanced service offer that will impact positively on key public health outcomes
- Meet with Public Health representatives in to identify funding streams to support the purchase of leisure passes for young people (January 2016)

**Key Information and Questions for Board Members**

- Members are invited to consider whether they have received sufficient information about the areas covered in the report and about the health of looked after children in general.
- Members are asked whether they would like further information about the work being done by the Health Team to reinstate funding for leisure passes