

BRISBANE

Regional Child and Family Committee Communique

October 2016

October 2016 Brisbane RCFC meeting

Improving life outcomes for children and young people in contact with the child protection system

In October 2016, the Brisbane Region Child and Family Committees' meeting focused on the Reform Leaders Group priority area of *improving life outcomes for children and young people in contact with the child protection system*.

Given the breadth of this priority area, the Committee chose to focus specifically on improving health outcomes for children and young people in care.

An invitation was extended to representatives from the Region's foster, kinship and residential care service providers, to participate in the discussion and planning alongside RCFC members on the day.

On the day, the committee had the benefit of hearing presentations from:

Dr Otilie Tork, Senior Staff Specialist Paediatrician and Reeny Jurczynszyn, Program Manager - Child Protection and Forensic Medical Service, Children's Health Queensland about Platform 18 – a transition to care health service for young people aged 15 – 18 years in out of home care

Dr Paul White, Clinical Director Specialist Disability Services Assessment and Outreach Team, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services presented

some of his early findings from his review of a number of young people in care in the Brisbane Region with complex needs

Belinda Edwards, Regional Practice Leader and Susan Goodrich, Placement Services Unit, Brisbane Region, Child Safety presented a case study to the Committee to highlight the impact for children and young people in later life of missed opportunities in meeting their health needs.

Following discussions about how we can work together to create opportunities for joined up responses and immediate action, the Committee decided the following three areas required further consideration from the sub-committee:

- The provision of practical support to carers (particularly kinship carers) to improve their health literacy
- How we can work together to ensure all children entering out of home care will receive a multi-disciplinary health assessment
- The completion of a review to determine the extent that children and young people in care in the Brisbane Region have had their health needs met.

A sub-committee, including representatives from Child Safety and Queensland Health, along with NGO representatives was formed on the day, and will be responsible for progressing this work. The working group will present their progress to the Brisbane RCFC in early 2017.