

Health Visiting and School Nursing Services

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The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out the Authority's statutory responsibility for delivering and commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 5-19 years. Responsibility for children's public health commission for 0-15 year olds on the Isle of Wight, specifically health visiting, transferred from NHS England to the Authority on 1 October 2015.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, regulations were in place until May 2015, with a 'sunset clause' at 18 months. A review of this arrangement was undertaken with Public Health England after 12 months. It has just been announced that the commissioning of Health Visiting Services will remain a mandatory service for local authorities to commission.

As part of the switch, the government have initially make it mandatory for local authorities to ensure the provision of the following key elements of the Healthy Child Programme delivered by health visitors;

- antenatal health promoting reviews
- new baby reviews
- six to eight week assessments
- one year assessments and
- two to two and a half year reviews.

The Health Visiting Service workforce consists of specialist community public health nurses and teams who provide expert information, assessments and interventions for babies, children and families including first time mothers and fathers and families with complex needs. Health Visitors help to empower parents to make decisions that affect their family's health and wellbeing and their role is central to improving the health outcomes of populations and reducing inequalities.

The move to commissioning of Children's public health services by the Authority is an opportunity to take a fresh look at ensuring coherent, effective, life course services for children and young people aged 0-19. The Authority is well placed to ensure a wide range of stakeholders, including the NHS and the voluntary and community sector work together to provide these services. It is expected that the Supplier will utilise the combined team to reduce duplication across the workforce and improve efficiency for both the service and service users alike.

The current contract for these services, which is held by Isle of Wight NHS Trust, expires on 31 March 2017. Public Health is currently in a procurement process for a new combined 0-19 services. We have made a formal offer of a short term contract from 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017 to cover for the 5 months between contracts. This will ensure the continuation of service provision.

This has been necessary because a previous procurement late in 2016 resulted in a failed procurement with no tenders submitted for the services. This procurement was for the 0-19 services only.

The 0-19 Service will combine the functions of the health visiting and school nursing services to create a team that will work together to deliver the Healthy Child Programme for children, young people and families that has a family centred approach and will have a focus on prevention and early intervention that will contribute to the improvements of children and young people's health and a reduction in health inequalities.

The current tender is offered for a total of 3 years with break clauses at 1 year intervals. The Budget for this service starts at £2.3 million at year one and reduces to £2 million at year three. This is so that public health can achieve their required savings.

It is expected to have this new service in place by 1 September 2017.

The aim of this contract is to ensure that all children and young people will receive the full benefit of the Healthy Child Programme including universal access and early identification of additional and/or complex needs to enable the 0-19 team to contribute to improved local outcomes and reduce health inequalities for children and young people.

These outcomes will be measured within a robust and measurable contract performance regime. The supplier will contribute towards the following outcomes, which are included within the Public Health Outcomes Framework, Guide to Early Years Profile and the NHS Outcomes Framework:

- Reducing infant mortality
- Reducing low birth weight of term babies
- Reducing smoking at delivery
- Improving breast feeding initiation
- Increasing breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks
- Improving child development at 2 – 2.5 years
- Reducing the number of children in poverty
- Improving school readiness
- Reducing under 18 conceptions
- Reducing excess weight in 4-5 and 10 -11 year olds
- Reducing hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children and young people aged 0-14
- Improving population vaccination coverage
- Disease prevention through screening and immunisation programmes
- Reducing tooth decay and extractions in children aged 5
- Reducing pupil absence
- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reducing the number of 16 -18 year olds not in education, employment or training.

- Improving emotional wellbeing of looked after children
- Reducing smoking prevalence in 15 year olds
- Reducing self-harm
- Chlamydia diagnosis 15 -24 year olds