



NHS ENGLAND

Core health visiting service specification updated

NHS ENGLAND HAS PUBLISHED A NATIONAL core health visiting service specification for 2015-16. The refreshed specification has a strengthened focus on the role of health visitors as leaders for improving health and wellbeing outcomes for young children and their families.

Supporting a safe and sustainable transfer to local authority commissioning of 0-5 public health services is a high priority. As well as extensive consultation with health visitor providers and existing commissioners, NHS England has involved the Local Government Association (LGA), in addition to directors of public health and directors of children's services. The commitment of future commissioners to NHS England's service specification covering April to September 2015 will increase the likelihood of the specification

transferring in to local authority/provider contracts for October 2015 and beyond. The core specification can be built on by local children's partnership to meet local needs.

The specification emphasises local authority priorities. These include a strengths-based approach to building family and community competency; assessing development at the integrated 2-2.5 year review using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3); promotion of school-readiness including working in partnership to improve speech, communication and language, and partnership working where there are concerns about parenting capacity, adult mental health, substance misuse and domestic and child abuse. Underpinning each of these elements is the strong emphasis on building early attachment and parenting

capacity. All link to a family focus; seamless transition to 5-19 services; and close working with local troubled families programmes and their key workers. There is also a strong focus on achieving public health outcomes.

The specification reflects the 4,5,6 model

- Four progressive tiers of health visiting practice – building community capacity; the universal elements of the Healthy Child Programme; targeted interventions to meet identified need, and partnership working to meet complex needs.
- Five universal HCP checks and reviews in line with the proposed mandate of local authority commissioning of the five universal checks and reviews. A significant addition to the performance report is the percentage of children who receive a six to eight week review.
- The six high impact areas - maternal mental health, transition to parenthood, breastfeeding, healthy weight, child development and managing minor illness/ accident prevention.

Working in partnership with other services in supporting assessment of education and health and care plans for children aged 0-5s is a strong focus, including a family centred approach to meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and contributing to high intensity multi-agency services where there are safeguarding or child protection concerns. The updated specification highlights the health visiting contribution as experts and leaders in delivering better health and wellbeing for 0-5s.

The full updated service specification is available by following the link below.

LINK
www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/hv-serv-spec-dec14-fin.pdf

Department of Health insight day

The Department of Health is holding an insight day for health visitors, school nurses, allied health professionals and others involved in supporting the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families. The day is aimed at those who would like to find out about the work of the Department of Health and Public Health England.

The Insight Day will be 10.00 – 3.45 on 13 May 2015, at rooms 102A/124A/125A Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH.

The event is a repeat of the day held on 18 February 2015, so if you have already attended, you do not need to attend again. To book your place contact fiona.hill@dh.gsi.gov.uk. Places are limited.