

Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board
11th June 2015

**Transition of Commissioning Responsibility for 0-5 Health Visiting
from NHS England to Surrey County Council.**

Introduction

1. The Healthy Child Programme sets a framework for the delivery of universal and more targeted or progressive services through and in partnership with health visitors and school nurses.
2. As part of delivering the vision for public health, set out within the 2010 White Paper¹, and contributing to the Government's ambition to achieve best possible health outcomes for children and young people. The responsibility for commissioning school nursing services transferred to local government in April 2013 under the changes set out within the 2012 Health and Social Care Act.
3. In Surrey the commissioning of universal school nurse services sits with the public health team in Surrey County Council¹. Nationally, from the 1st October 2015, the commissioning of health visiting services will transfer from NHS England to public health in Surrey County Council. Both health visiting and school nursing services will continue to be provided by the three NHS community providers in Surrey (Central Surrey Health, First Community Health and Care and Virgin Care Services Limited) in line with the overall contracts held with the lead Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
4. This paper provides an overview of future commissioning arrangements for health visiting.

**The Healthy Child Programme and what can Surrey's children, young people
and families expect?**

5. The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is the framework within which the services for children and young people delivered by health visiting, for 0-5 year olds, and school nurses, for 5-19 year olds, are delivered²³⁴. The HCP requires support and delivery from a range of partners including maternity, early years and children centres, schools, primary care and children's services.
6. Core elements of the HCP delivered by health visitors and school nurses include:
 - Early Help assessments and children's safe guarding.
 - health assessments and developmental reviews,
 - promotion of positive relationships and good mental health,

¹ The universal School Nurse Service is commissioned by SCC Public Health. The CAMHs Community Nurses that work alongside the wider school nurse workforce are commissioned by SCC Children's Services. Those School Nurses working in Surrey's Special Schools are currently commissioned by both Surrey's CCGs and SCC.

- as well as sign posting to sexual health and substance misuse services and
 - supporting children in mainstream schools with long term conditions.
7. All three of Surrey's community providers work to a nationally set and locally agreed service specification for health visiting and similar specifications for school nursing⁵⁶, helping to ensure uniformity in service provision across the County.

Health Visiting (0-5s)

8. Every child is entitled to the best possible start in life. The first 1001 days from conception to age 2 is widely recognised as a crucial period in a child's development, and can be a determining factor in their ability to learn and experience positive outcomes for the rest of their life course⁷.
9. Broadly speaking, each family, in Surrey, has access to a named health visitor until their child starts school at around 4 years of age, when they are transferred to the school nursing service. Although not all families will require support until this time others may need additional targeted intervention that can help the child and their family.
10. Health Visitors deliver a number of universal elements of the HCP that provide a mechanism for early intervention and prevention and help to the family and child from the start.
- more new birth visits completed within 10- 14 days,
 - improvement in the percentage of completed 9-12 month reviews
 - improvement in the percentage of completed 2-2.5 year reviews and
 - the percentage of mothers receiving a maternal mood review by the time their infant is 6-8 weeks old.

As well as providing direct support to Early Help and Safeguarding.

Workforce and Performance.

11. The Health Visiting Call to Action began in 2011 and aimed to deliver 4,200 more health visitors nationally and improved outcomes for children and young people through early intervention and more targeted and tailored support for those who need it.
12. In Surrey the Call to Action has led to approximately 200 more qualified health visitors working across the county, an increase of around 70. The three community providers have worked hard to achieve their workforce targets.

| Provider | Baseline WTE qualified health visitor | Target WTE qualified health visitor | Achieved (March 15) WTE qualified health visitor |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Virgin | 86 | 126.4 | 129.92 |
| FCHC | 19.8 | 30.10 | 32.49 |
| CSH Surrey | 30 | 47.2 | 47.27 |

WTE: Whole Time Equivalent

13. It is now important to ensure that the increase in investment translate to improvements in the performance of the mandated checks (paragraph 10) and broader outcomes. Performance of these checks has been low in Surrey, a picture mirrored to some extent across the South East. However improvement plans are now in place and monitored through the governance arrangements described below.

Transition of commissioning responsibility.

- 14. Planning for the transition of commissioning responsibility for health visiting services started early in Surrey with the establishment of a Transition Board to oversee the process. The Board meets frequently and includes representatives from NHS England, the three community providers, CCGs, SCC: Public Health, Children’s Services and Early Years. The Board has had regular sight of health visitor performance, finance and workforce recruitment and retention. Currently the transition process is on track to meet the timeframes to ensure this takes place on the 1st October 2015.
- 15. Contractually the overall provider contracts are held with 3 of the Surrey CCGs with Surrey County Council as named Associate Commissioner. Deeds of Novation (the substitution of a new contract for an old one), Financial Schedules, Reporting Metrics and Service Specifications are in the process of being signed off by the providers, lead commissioning CCGs, NHS England and Surrey County Council.

Next steps:

- a) SCC Public Health team will continue to ensure a smooth transition of commissioning responsibility for the 0-5 HV service.
- b) The three Community Provider contracts will be ready for renewal in October 2016 (First Community Health and Care), March 2017 (Virgin Care Services Limited) and March 2018 (Central Surrey Health). SN and HV sit within these contracts and SCC Public Health team will plan appropriate steps, in conjunction with the CCGs and SCC colleagues, including Early Years, Education, Youth and Children’s Services, to ensure that interdependencies with other existing services are considered during the recommissioning process and that there is limited disruption to services throughout any possible period of change.



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2 Department of Health (2009) Healthy Child Programme: pregnancy and the first five years of life.
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4 Department of Health (2009) Healthy Child Programme: from 5 to 19 years old.
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