

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 March 2014

Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for Public Health for 0-5 year olds (Health Visiting)

Executive Summary

This paper sets out information about the transfer of commissioning responsibility for public health for under 5s (Health Visiting) from NHS England to Wiltshire Council in October 2015.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board notes the paper.

Reason for Proposal

The transfer of commissioning responsibility for the public health of 0-5 year olds will be an important new responsibility for Wiltshire Council.

**Maggie Rae
Corporate Director
Wiltshire Council**

Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for Public Health for 0-5 year olds (Health Visiting)

Purpose of Report

1. To provide information about the transfer of commissioning responsibility for public health for under 5s (Health Visiting) from NHS England to Wiltshire Council in October 2015; alongside paper 9a on the re-commissioning of children's community health services.

Background

2. In April 2013 local Public Health services formally transferred to Local Authorities. At this time responsibility for 5 -19 years children's public health commissioning (School Nursing services) transitioned with Public Health.
3. Responsibility for 0-5 years children's public health commissioning, which includes Health Visiting services and Family Nurse Partnership was passed to NHS England. It was always the Governments intention that responsibility for these services would transfer to Local Authorities during 2015/16, however we have been awaiting confirmation of when this would be.
4. The Government has now formally announced that the responsibility for children's public health commissioning for 0-5 year olds will transfer from NHS England to Local Authorities on 1 October 2015. This will mark the final part of the Public Health transfer.
5. Health Visitors are trained nurses with specialist training in helping families and young children. They deliver the Healthy Child Programme and are skilled at helping parents develop a strong bond with children, encouraging care that keeps children healthy and safe, protecting children from serious diseases through screening and immunisation and identifying and helping children with problems that might affect their chances later in life.
6. Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a home visiting programme for first time young mums, aged 19 or under. A specially trained family nurse visits the young mum regularly, from early in pregnancy until the child is two. The programme aims to enable young mums to have a healthy pregnancy, improve their child's health and development and plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations. FNP is underpinned by an internationally recognised robust evidence base, which shows it can improve health, social and educational outcomes in the short, medium and long term, while also providing cost benefits.

7. Wiltshire Council Public Health Team and NHS England Area Team are currently working together to launch an FNP programme in Wiltshire and formal responsibility for commissioning this service will also transfer to the Local Authority on 1st October 2015.
8. A national task and finish group, overseen by the Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership and including representation from LGA, ADPH, ADCS, SOLACE, PHE and DH *, is taking forward discussions on mandation, funding and other key issues to prepare councils for the transfer of commissioning responsibilities.
9. You can view the announcement on the DH website here: [Giving all children a healthy start in life](#)
10. NHS England Area Team currently has responsibility for commissioning the Health Visiting Service so staff from the Area Team will be involved in the re-commissioning of Children's Community Health Services. The Council's Public Health Team also currently take the lead on commissioning the School Nursing Service and the Consultant in Public Health with this responsibility would also need to be involved in that work.
11. The work on the transfer and the re-commissioning will both be overseen through the Children's Trust Commissioning Executive.

Maggie Rae
Corporate Director
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