Vision and Strategy: An Approach for Health Visiting and School Nursing

Improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people 0-19. The Health Visiting and School Nursing contribution to improving health outcomes for children, young people and families, below outlines the health visitor and school nurse contribution to leading and delivering the Healthy Child Programme 0-19 years (October 2009). The Vision and Service Models for Health Visiting and School Nursing have been set in the context of the broader national nursing strategy - Developing a Culture of Compassionate Care (December 2012), which includes the six Cs – values and behaviours together with the six priority actions for maintaining health and wellbeing outcomes.

Leading and delivering the Healthy Child programme 0-19

*The Health Visitor and School Nurse Service Offer*
Your Community has a range of health services (including GP and community services) for children, young people and their families. Health visitors and school nurses develop and provide these and make sure you know about them.

Universal Services from your health visitor and school nursing teams provide the Healthy Child Programme to ensure a healthy start for every child (e.g. Public Health, parenting advice, including immunisations and health checks). They support children and parents to ensure access to a range of community services.

Universal Plus delivers a swift response from your health visitor/school nurse service when you need specific expert help e.g. with postnatal depression, sleepless baby and weaning, sexual health, mental health concerns, long-term health issues and additional health needs.

Universal Partnership Plus delivers ongoing support from your health visiting and school nurse team from a range of local services working together with you to deal with more complex issues over a period of time (e.g. with voluntary and community organisations and your local authority).

Quality Standards
The school nursing service provided should encapsulate the “You’re Welcome” quality criteria and therefore address:
- Accessibility;
- Predictability;
- Confidentiality and Consent;
- Environment;
- Staff training, skills, attitudes and values;
- Jointed working;
- Young peoples’ involvement in monitoring and evaluation of patient experience;
- Health issues for young people;
- Sexual and reproductive health services;
- Specialist and targeted child and adolescent mental health services.

* Department of Health 2011, British Youth Council 2011

The health visiting service should be delivered in line with the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 framework, an evidence-based programme of screening, visiting and interventions from pregnancy to age 5, ensuring:
- Working practice that uses the latest evidence from neuroscience;
- Parenting support programmes including Preparing for Pregnancy, Birth and Beyond;
- Evidence based interventions using principles of motivational interviewing/promotional interviewing;
- Early identification of risk and need at an individual, family and community level;
- Early intervention and prevention work that meets the needs and aspirations of the family;
- Appropriate networks of support through close working partnerships with a range of organisations.

Outcomes: leading & contributing to:
• Improved health and wellbeing and a reduction in health inequalities.
• Promoted healthy lifestyles and social cohesion by reaching and influencing the wider community.
• Improved planning of local services to reduce health inequalities.
• Promote healthy lifestyles and work with communities to build and use the strengths within those communities to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.
• Achieve population (or ‘herd’) immunity through the increased uptake of immunisations.
• Increase access to evidence-based interventions through the Healthy Child Programme to children and families tailored to specific need.
• Increased breastfeeding, appropriate infant nutrition and lifestyle changes to tackle rising obesity and related illness in later life.
• Improved maternal mental health and wellbeing enabling strong early attachment and infant emotional wellbeing.
• Improved school readiness.
• Reduced number of children requiring formal safeguarding arrangements – achieved through early identification and intervention.

Making this happen for children and young people - health visitors and school nurses should lead in these six areas and embedded throughout is Leadership, Ownership, Partnerships

Maximising health and wellbeing, Helping people to stay independent
• Create communities that understand how to support children and young people’s health and wellbeing
• Lead, deliver and evaluate public health

Working with people to provide a positive experience
• Understand the needs and challenges for children and young people
• Recognise the signs and risk factors and respond to the individuals’ and families needs to support improved health and wellbeing

Delivering care and measuring impact
• Ensure care and support is evidence based
• Ensure robust systems to report outcomes and measure effectiveness of interventions including service user feedback

Building and strengthening leadership
• Act as a professional role model for all, providing leadership and support to the team in improving health outcomes and efficient service delivery
• Lead the HCP and influence wider public health agenda

Ensuring we have the right staff, with the right skills and attributes in the right place
• Ensure the team is led by a SCPHN, supported by a team who understand basic health nursing and develop expertise through competencies
• Expand knowledge of neuroscience

Supporting positive staff experience
• Enable time to listen, reflect and support staff to provide a family-centred service within a variety of settings
• Develop future nurse leaders by providing excellent practice placements