

# Health Scrutiny Committee report

<b>Information for Health Scrutiny Panel: Update on the implementation of Nottingham's new needs-led school nursing service</b>	
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2015
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<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Norris

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Nottingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny with regards to the progress of implementing the new School Nursing model which began to be implemented in September 2014.

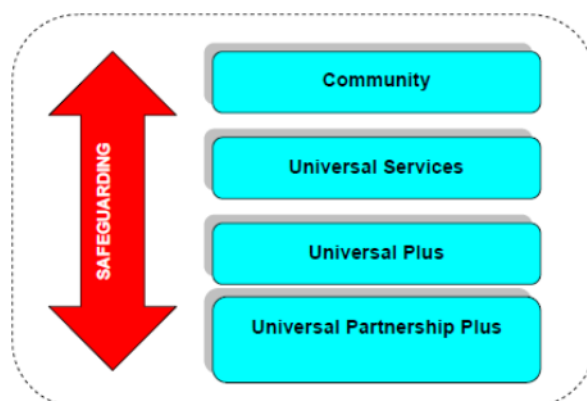
## 2.0 Background and context

2.1 Health is crucially linked with education. Good health and emotional wellbeing are associated with improved attendance and attainment at school, which in turn lead to improved employment opportunities. An evidence-based approach using prevention and early intervention reduces costs to society and to health, education and wider children's services in the long term.

2.2 Lifestyles and habits established during childhood influence a person's health throughout their life. The foundations of a healthy and fulfilled adult life are thus laid in childhood and adolescence. For example, up to 79 per cent of obese adolescents remain obese in adulthood, and adolescents who binge drink are 50 per cent more likely to be dependent on alcohol or misusing other substances when they reach the age of 30.

2.3 School nurses are specialist public health nurses who support children and young people in their developing years between school entry age and 19. The School Nursing service in Nottingham is delivered by Nottingham CityCare Partnership and aims to *promote and protect the health and well-being of all school-aged children and young people so that they can optimise their education and wider social opportunities*. School nursing is the only independent access to health and social services for children and young people.

2.4 School nursing is a universal service, which intensifies its delivery offer for children and young people who have more complex and longer term needs (Universal Plus). For children and young people with multiple needs, school nurse teams are instrumental in co-ordinating services (Universal Partnership Plus).



2.5 The responsibility for commissioning public health services for 5-19 year olds transferred from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to Public Health in the Local Authority in April 2013 following the Health and Social Care Act. This included mandatory provision of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

### **3.0 Nottingham School Nursing review**

3.1 As part of the transition process, a full review of the school nursing service was undertaken between December 2012 and December 2013. The aim of the review was to develop a school nursing service model for Nottingham based on local need to ensure children, young people and families are offered a core programme of evidence based preventative health care with additional care and support for those who need it.

3.2 The report of the Nottingham school nursing review findings and recommendations was completed in April 2014 and can be found here: [Nottingham School Nursing Review Report](#).

3.3 Following the review, a partnership group was established to lead the implementation of an action plan consisting of over 50 actions which were derived from the review.

### **4.0 School Nursing Model for Nottingham – developments since the review**

There has been significant progress in the development of the Nottingham School Nursing service; the majority of actions within the service development action plan have already been achieved. Some key developments are detailed below:

4.1 The development of a needs-led model of delivery was implemented at the beginning of the 2014/15 academic year. Public health nursing teams have been established around each of the 16 school groups. Each team is led by a specialist Public Health nurse. This model ensures young people with the greatest level of need are supported by the most qualified nurses, contributing to improved health and educational outcomes (appendix 1).

4.2 During the first two terms of 2014/15, 1,013 children and young people received a school nurse intervention to support them with immediate health concerns/needs (universal plus) and 298 children with multiple and complex needs received support through school nursing (Universal Partnership Plus).

4.3 There is now a smooth transfer of children from the health visiting service in which children are transferred within four levels of need to school nursing. This ensures that school nurses are aware of the needs of children and can quickly identify and support children and families with ongoing or urgent health needs.

4.4 Significant progress has been made in the development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which ensure a consistent and evidenced based service for all children and young people. The following pathways have been developed and approved:

- Emotional health
- Sexual health and relationships
- Healthy weight
- Contenance
- Substance misuse

4.5 In addition, a safeguarding pathway and guidance for school nursing have been developed to clarify school nurses' roles and responsibilities. School nurses' involvement in safeguarding activities now depends on:

- Whether there are any health concerns
- Knowledge of the pupil
- The involvement of other professionals
- Whether the nurse has a role to play

4.6 A revised, holistic school entrant questionnaire was sent to parents in October 2014 and a revised Year 7 questionnaire was circulated in December 2014 as a means to identify potential health and well-being needs among children. During the first two terms of the 2014/15 academic year, 2,025 reception children (aged 4-5) received a health assessment. A mid-teen health assessment questionnaire has been developed, piloted and introduced in the summer term 2015, to identify young people who need information and advice on sexual health and relationships, emotional well-being, smoking, alcohol, substance misuse and healthy lifestyles.

4.7 The new healthy weight service within school nursing was launched in September 2014 and preliminary data suggests that families are satisfied with this personalised, family approach of weight management support. 6,019 reception and Year 6 children took part in the National Child Measurement Programme in 2014/15. During the first two terms of 2014/15, 472 children received support regarding healthy weight from a school nurse and approximately 70 families received an intensive package of support through the school nursing healthy weight service.

4.8 Promotional materials have been developed for use in schools, including revised School Health webpages and a service leaflet distributed to parents/carers of all school aged children (appendix 2). An on-line referral mechanism to the school nursing service has been developed so that schools and other professionals can easily and securely refer children and young people to the service.

4.9 School Nursing now provides a year-round service to ensure health needs continue to be met throughout the school holidays. The nurses have also significantly increased the amount of home visits they carry out to ensure a holistic family approach.

4.10 Three health improvement facilitators (healthy weight, sexual health and relationships and emotional well-being) are now in post within the School Nursing service to develop a whole school approach to improving health and social care outcomes, with equity across each school in the City. A consistent programme of health promotion campaigns was developed for 2014/15.

4.11 Public Health, in partnership with Education Partnerships, Healthy Schools, School Nursing and other service providers held the third in a series of Public Health and School Health Partnership events on the 4th June 2015 which focused on 'safeguarding children and young people's relationships' in which 77 delegates attended. These events aim to improve communication and partnership working between health partners and schools around key public health priorities.

4.12 A School Health Liaison Group has been established which is a partnership of deputy head teachers, school nursing and Public Health. The group enables continued involvement of schools in the development of the service.

## **5.0 Further developments**

5.1 A School Aged Immunisation Service has been established and will start to administer school aged immunisations from September 2015. This service is commissioned by NHS England and will free up time within the school nursing service for other generic public health nursing.

5.2 The groups of schools that the school nursing teams work with are being amended so that they are aligned with Local Authority Committee Areas and GP Care Delivery Groups to ensure a more sustainable approach which supports integrated working. This will be in place by September 2015.

5.3 Updated school health profiles are being developed to provide an overview of health needs within the new school groupings as described in 5.2 to ensure a needs-led model of delivery. These will incorporate the priority outcomes from the Child Development Strategic Review, similar to the recently produced 0-5 Area profiles (appendix 3). These are expected to be finalised by December 2015.

5.4 The school nursing service provided in special schools is currently being reviewed to ensure a coordinated approach with the Integrated Community Children and Young People's Healthcare Service for children and young people with acute or additional health needs, including disability or complex needs.

5.5 Standard Operating Procedures and pathways for managing the health needs of persistent absentees, smoking cessation and looked after children are in development.

## **6.0 Contact information**

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