

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 2 September 2014

Electoral Division affected: All

School Nursing and Health Visiting (Appendices A, B and C refer)

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Executive Summary

As part of the ongoing scrutiny of the 'Starting Well' element of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy the Committee has agreed to look at the services relating to school nursing and health visiting.

To enable an effective understanding of the whole approach to these services, officers representing both the commissioners and service providers will attend Committee to provide members with information relating to the different roles and responsibilities they each carry out.

A number of appendices have been included with the report to provide members with additional background and they are:

- Appendix A – Maximising the school nursing team contribution to the public health of school-aged children (guidance to support commissioning)
- Appendix B – A 2 page briefing aimed at Lead Members of Children's Services on School Health Service (produced by the Department of Health and Local Government Association)
- Appendix C – The National Health Visitor Plan: progress to date and implementation 2013 onwards

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to note and comment on the report and presentations and consider any further scrutiny of the school nursing service or health visiting service they may wish to undertake in the future.

Background and Advice

As part of the work plan of the Health Scrutiny Committee, members agreed that at the September Committee meeting they would receive a presentation on the commissioning and provision of the school nursing and health visiting services.

These topics are within the remit of the 'Starting Well' strand of Lancashire's Health & Well Being Strategy and are a national progression to follow on from the previous Committee meeting where members discussed strategies, policies and provision for early years.

To enable the Committee to get a clear picture of the provision within Lancashire, members will receive presentations from both commissioners and providers - officers in attendance will be:

- Mike Leaf – Director of Health Improvement, Lancashire County Council
- Sheridan Townsend, Public Health Specialist (Children, Young People & Families), Lancashire County Council
- Jane Cass – Head of Public Health, NHS England – Lancashire Area Team
- Tricia Spedding – Public Health Commissioning Manager, NHS England – Lancashire Area Team
- Michelle Cox – Service Line Manager, Universal Services, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
- Gill Wildon – Head of Universal Children's Services, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

As much of the detail of the services both commissioned and provided will be delivered within the presentations from the attending officers the report includes a number of attachments to provide the Committee with background information relating to the two services.

The appendices are:

Appendix A – Maximising the school nursing team contribution to the public health of school-aged children (guidance to support commissioning)

The guidance is aimed at local commissioners and providers to provide them with a framework for commissioning local services that will be dependent on local needs. It aims to set out the core school nurse offer and the innovative ways that school nursing services can be commissioned and developed to meet local need to ensure effective, seamless delivery of public health for school-aged children and young people. Local Authorities are key commissioners and hold an array of statutory duties for children, including: improving educational achievement; improving the wellbeing of young people; reducing child poverty; and protecting children and families.

Appendix B – A two-page briefing aimed at Lead Members of Children's Services on School Health Service (produced by the Department of Health and Local Government Association)

It provides an overview of the School Health Service and shares top tips to help Lead Members think about how they can use the School Health services to deliver better health outcomes for 5-19 year olds. From April 2013, local authorities are statutorily responsible for delivering and commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 5-19. This will include providing prevention and early intervention services, delivering the Healthy Child Programme and addressing key public health issues such as sexual health, emotional health and wellbeing issues, obesity, drug, alcohol and tobacco misuse.

Appendix C – The National Health Visitor Plan: progress to date and implementation 2013 onwards

The [Healthy Child Programme](#) (HCP) is the key universal service for improving the health and wellbeing of children, through health and development reviews, health promotion, parenting support, screening and immunisation programmes. Its goals are to identify and treat problems early, help parents to care well for their children, change health behaviours and protect against preventable diseases. The programme is based on a systematic review of evidence and is expected to prevent problems in child health and development and contribute to a reduction in health inequalities. As evidence for early intervention grows, health visitors in their role as leaders of the HCP, are vital to identifying needs and working with other services to ensure prompt preventative care is provided. As public health practitioners, health visitors also contribute to health needs analysis and work with local communities to improve health and reduce inequalities.

The expansion of the health visiting service is intended to:

- improve health and wellbeing outcomes for under-fives;
- reduce health inequalities;
- improve access to services; and,
- improve the experience of children and families.

Also additional information on the service specification for the health visiting service can be found at www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/hv-serv-spec.pdf

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A