

Publication withdrawn

This guidance is out of date and was withdrawn in August 2025.

'The New Service Offer'

Your Community has a range of health services including some Sure Start Children's Centres and the service families and communities provide for themselves. Health visitors work to develop these and make sure you know about them.

Universal services from your health visitor and team provides the Healthy Child Programme to ensure a healthy start for your children and family (e.g. prompt for immunisations, health and development reviews), support for parents and access to a range of community services/resources.

Universal plus delivers a rapid response from your health visiting team when you need specific expert help, e.g. with postnatal depression, a sleepless baby, weaning or answering any concerns you may have about bringing up your children.

Universal partnership plus provides ongoing support from your health visiting team bringing together a range of local services working together with you, to help you and your family with any additional complex needs that you may have. These include services from Sure Start Children's Centres, other community services including voluntary and community organisations and, where appropriate, the Family Nurse Partnership.

Public Health White Paper Update and Next Steps

Professionals such as health visitors and school nurses will have a role in helping to develop local approaches to public health, provide links between public health and the NHS and leadership in promoting good health and addressing inequalities.

Developing Professional Partnership Pathways

- Transition from Midwifery to Health Visiting;
- Transition from Health Visiting to School Nursing;
- Safeguarding complex needs in family home;
- Skill mix;
- Additional pathways may include Maternal Mental Health & Child and Adolescent Mental Health services.

Key Messages for key stakeholders 'Health Visiting.....'

General

- Empowering families for a healthier future.

The Profession

- Leading families and communities to better health and well being.

Wider Nursing Workforce

- Building the future health of our community.
- Designing and delivering care to families.
- Promoting public health to the community.

Service Users

- A healthier start for children.
- Making a difference in our community.

Commissioners and Providers

- Better health outcomes and reducing inequalities.
- Leaders in public health.

*Outcomes: leading & contributing to improved health and wellbeing and reduced inequalities including:-

- Improved positive parenting skills in the communities to raise children that are healthy, safe, have the ability to enjoy, achieve, make positive contributions and achieve economic wellbeing;
- Increased access to evidence-based interventions through the Healthy Child Programme to children and families and tailored to specific needs;
- Reduced numbers of children requiring formal safeguarding arrangements – achieved through early identification and intervention;
- Increased uptake of immunisations resulting in herd immunity;
- Reduced incidences of obesity through increased breastfeeding, appropriate infant nutrition and lifestyle changes;
- Increased public health work to promote healthy lifestyles and social cohesion;
- Improved family satisfaction with health visiting service provided;
- Improved maternal mental health and wellbeing.

* Please note the contents of this section may change with the publication of the Public Health Outcomes Framework and findings of Children and Young People's Outcome Strategy group.

SAFEGUARDING

Developing the services for an effective Healthy Child Programme 0-5

Roles of the qualified health visitor:

To improve the health and well-being of children, families and communities by:

- Leading and coordinating the Healthy Child Programme;
- Providing proactive 'early help' and leadership as part of a multi-agency team;
- Providing support to vulnerable families and those with complex and additional needs;
- Undertaking comprehensive population, community family and individual needs assessments and undertaking wider public health work to reduce inequalities;
- Identifying families with high risk and low protective factors, enabling these families to express need and decide how these will be best met (where it is appropriate to do so);
- Utilising specialist skills to identify risk factors in protecting children. Some risk factors may be so high that no amount of protective factors will compensate and action to prevent the child from harm must be taken;
- Creating and developing effective teams and partnerships; working across professions and organisations; using evidence based interventions to support families with specific needs;
- Establishing positive partnerships with families to support effective lifestyle change;
- Acting as a role model to colleagues who work in health visiting teams as well as pre-registration students;
- Working formally and informally with GPs e.g. referrals and informal raising of concerns, prompting for 6-8 week check.

Skills and knowledge

- Graduate workforce.
- Partnership and multi-agency working.
- Public health of children and young people.
- Clinical and specialist skills in:
 - Assessment;
 - Developing and implementing care packages;
 - Health visiting interventions (e.g. listening events);
 - Needs analysis / population data;
 - Review and evaluation;
 - Behaviour modification;
 - Facilitation;
 - Relationship and listening;
 - Negotiation.
- Child and family wellbeing including early childhood development, family dynamics and relationships, self efficacy and achieving positive change.
- Leadership and team functioning, critical analysis and communicating judgements.
- Experts for wider health and wellbeing; for prevention and public health; for building family and community capacity.
- Outcome focused approaches.
- Coaching and mentoring.

Developing the profession to lead and deliver seamless services for children and families