

Publication withdrawn

This guidance was withdrawn in August 2025. For current guidance see the [Healthy child programme schedule of interventions](#).

'The Offer'

Your Community has a range of health services (including GP and community services) for children, young people and their families. School nurses develop and provide these and make sure you know about them.

Universal services from your school nurse team provides the Healthy Child Programme to ensure a healthy start for every child (e.g. Public Health, 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 school nurse service when you need specific expert help e.g. with sexual health, mental health concerns, long-term health issues and additional health needs.

Universal partnership plus delivers ongoing support from your 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).

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.

Services and pathways

Services led by a qualified school nurse and delivered in a range of settings:

- School;
- Other education settings;
- Primary care;
- Youth and Community;
- Home and residential settings.

Developing Pathways

- Transition from health visiting to school nursing;
- Complex needs (school setting);
- Safeguarding (including domestic violence and sexual exploitation);
- Youth Justice.

* Additional pathways may include: Looked After Children, young carers and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Quality standards

The service provided should encapsulate the "You're Welcome" quality criteria* and therefore address:

- Accessibility;
- Publicity;
- Confidentiality and Consent;
- Environment;
- Staff training, skills, attitudes and values;
- Joined-up working;
- Young people's 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,

*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.
- * 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.

Success Measures: School Nurses leading & contributing to 'healthy, happy children and young people'

- Increased access to evidence-based interventions through the Healthy Child Programme to children and families and tailored to specific need.
- Young people reporting a high level of satisfaction and clinical effectiveness with school nursing service.
- Reduced numbers of children requiring formal safeguarding arrangements – achieved through early identification and intervention.
- Increased public health work to promote healthy lifestyles and social cohesion.
- Increased uptake of early help and access to evidence based preventative services, which are tailored to meet individual and family needs, including support for parental needs e.g. mental health concerns.
- Increased uptake from children, young people and families, of preventative services tailored to their needs and all families access evidence-based programmes.
- Reduction in school absence due to poor health and / or additional health needs or complex needs.
- Improved mental health and well being including reduced bullying.
- Improved co-ordination of training delivered to school staff to support pupils with complex health and /or additional needs.
- Reduced incidences of obesity and positive lifestyle changes through improved coverage of National Child Measuring Programme.
- Children and young people feel supported and able to make positive changes to their health and wellbeing.
- Reduction in prevalence of chlamydia in 15-24 year olds and reduction in under 18 year olds conception rates.
- Reduction in proportion of young people who frequently use illicit drugs or alcohol or that smoke.

Developing the services for an effective Healthy Child Programme 5-19

The unique role of the school nursing service:

Delivering public health services to children and young people should be led by a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) supported by a team with an appropriate skill mix to reflect local need. The school nursing service will improve children and young people's health and wellbeing by:

- Leading, delivering and evaluating universal Public Health programmes for school-aged children and young people, both within school and community settings.
- Taking an evidence based approach to delivering cost effective programmes or interventions which contribute to children and young people's health and wellbeing e.g. reductions in childhood obesity and under 18 year old conception rates.
- Referring and delegating within the team to maximise resources and utilise expertise of other skilled professionals.
- Supporting seamless transition into school, from primary to secondary school and transition into adulthood.
- Leading support for children and young people with complex and/or additional health needs including education, training and support for families, carers and school staff.
- Identifying children and young people in need of early help and where appropriate providing support to improve their life chances and prevent abuse and neglect. This includes working with children and young people at risk of becoming involved in gangs or youth violence;
- Contributing as part of a multi-agency team, to support children, young people and families, particularly those with multiple needs;
- Supporting vulnerable children including children in care and support for their carers (including young people in contact with Youth Justice system).

Skills:

- Graduate workforce;
- Clinical;
- Leadership;
- Partnership and collaborative working;
- Communication and negotiation;
- Coaching and mentoring;
- Children and young people Public Health specialist, skilled in:
 - Assessment;
 - Needs analysis and population data;
 - Evaluation and review;
 - Developing and implementing care plans;

Knowledge:

- Outcome focussed approaches;
- Experts for wider health and wellbeing; for prevention and public health; for building family and community capacity.

Developing the profession to lead and deliver seamless services for child, young people and families