

18 January 2016**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF CONSULTANT IN PUBLIC HEALTH****PROPOSED RE-MODELLING OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL
HEALTH SERVICE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the proposals to re-model and re-commission the School Health Service, as part of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and Public Health Nursing Service.

Information and Advice**Commissioning of the School Health Service**

2. The responsibility for commissioning of the School Health Service transferred to the Local Authority in April 2013. The Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub (ICH) within Nottinghamshire County Council leads on commissioning the service for the whole of Nottinghamshire, including Bassetlaw. School nursing teams deliver the School Health Service.
3. In addition to delivering the Healthy Child Programme, the School Health Service in Nottinghamshire is commissioned to deliver the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) on behalf of the Local Authority. This is a statutory duty for local authorities.
4. In order to commission a service which improves public health outcomes and meets local needs, the ICH undertook a review of the School Health Service, to look at evidence of effectiveness, current provision and to find out what schools, stakeholders and young people need from the service. Key findings of the review and recommendations for future commissioning appear in **Appendix 1**.
5. Following consideration of the recommendations for commissioning, proposals for re-modelling of the School Health Service were developed. A consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on the proposals was completed earlier this year. As a result of the responses to the consultation, further work has been undertaken in relation to a number of specific issues detailed later in the report.

Current provision of the School Health Service

6. The School Health Service is provided by Health Partnerships within Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

7. The Service is made up of teams consisting of a range of staff roles, including qualified specialist practitioner school nurses, health care assistants, community nurses, community health assistant practitioners (CHAPs, formerly nursery nurses), community support workers, and clerical support staff. There are less than five whole time equivalent (wte) senior school nurses across Nottinghamshire.
8. At the time of the review, there were just over 70 WTE staff in the School Health Service across Nottinghamshire, providing the service to over 340 schools. It is therefore clear that the Service is small relative to the number of schools in the county. In addition, nurses in Newark and Sherwood, Mansfield and Ashfield also deliver special school nursing, so there is a greater reduction in the public health nursing functions in these districts.
9. As a result of the limited capacity of the School Health Service, the need to re-model and re-focus the service is clear, in order to provide needs-led, effective and efficient public health interventions and services to children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

Proposed re-modelling of the School Health Service

10. A consultation exercise to seek views on the proposed re-modelling of the service was undertaken, which included an on-line survey and events, together with presentations for most Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and engagement with schools and staff providing the service.
11. Table 1 outlines the proposed changes and the agreed decisions and subsequent actions.

Table 1: Proposed key changes and decision/action following analysis of feedback received through the consultation process

Proposal	Decision or Action/Next steps
Name change from School Nurse to Public Health Nurse	The service name will stay as 'School Health' despite the need to understand the broader role of the 'school nurse' in non-school settings, e.g. 'public health nurse 5-19 year olds'
Deliver the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), integrating commissioning with Health Visiting Service The HCP includes providing universal services to all children and families, including routine screening and developmental checks	Commissioning process for integrated HCP to commence, planned new service in place April 2017
An increased targeted and health promotion focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> working with those at risk of poor health outcomes (young offenders, looked after children, those excluded from school or educated outside of mainstream settings, etc.) 	Agreed, for inclusion in service specification

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focusing on topics appropriate to age of children (e.g. emotional health & wellbeing, healthy eating and physical activity, healthy relationships, puberty, alcohol and smoking, sexual health etc.) 	
Offer holistic health drop in service in or near every secondary school	Agreed, young people to be consulted re timing, venue, evaluation of drop-in sessions
Improved awareness and promotion of the School Health Service, increased understanding by stakeholders of what the service provides	Supported by commissioners, the provider will ensure that stakeholders understand the role, and promote the service as a provision for all school aged children, young people and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased visibility in schools, via regular presentations at school assemblies/events • Development of innovative communication pathways e.g. texting service for young people, use of social media
Partnership and integrated working – the service will continue to work in partnership with a range of health and children’s services teams and organisations, ensuring delivery of service priorities are achieved using a multi-agency approach with key partners e.g. Early Help Unit, Troubled Families, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) etc.	Agreed, for inclusion in service specification
Offer early intervention and promote emotional health and wellbeing, improve young people’s sexual health and prevent teenage pregnancy	Supported by commissioners, the provider will ensure that School Health staff have the knowledge and skills to offer appropriate emotional health and wellbeing interventions. The service will work with primary mental health workers and One CAMHS to improve outcomes for service users. School Health staff will work with community contraception and sexual health (CaSH) services and signpost to specialist services, support school- led sex and relationships education (SRE) sessions and deliver the C-Card scheme. Further discussion with Public Health commissioners of sexual health services will take place to agree scope.
Develop a Standard Operating Framework	Agreed, for inclusion in service specification
Provide teams based on three localities of Nottinghamshire in line with children’s services	Agreed, for inclusion in service specification

Cease vision screening, cease hearing screening	Commissioners to work with orthoptic teams to assess referrals, diagnoses, outcomes and effectiveness of school based screening. During health assessments for Year 1 pupils, parents and carers will be encouraged to attend free vision and hearing screening from accredited high street providers who have the skills and facilities to assess vision and hearing appropriately.
Review Child Protection Panel involvement	The School Health teams will undertake health assessments for all children and young people aged 5-19 years prior to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). The School Nurse will attend the ICPC and first core group, and subsequent attendances will be assessed according to the health needs of the individual child. Commissioners will ensure that Local Authority partners are aware of the changes to existing practice as a result of service re-modelling.
Clarify support for children and young people with medical conditions	National statutory guidance, published in 2014, places the responsibility with schools and governing bodies to support children with long-term conditions in school. The School Health Service will support schools to implement the new statutory guidance.

Next Steps for Commissioners

12. With the transfer of commissioning responsibility for health visiting and the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme to the Local Authority on 1 October 2015, it has been agreed by the Public Health Committee that the ICH lead the procurement of an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme. Therefore the commissioning of the School Health Service, Health Visiting and the FNP will be combined.
13. The ICH will begin a tender process imminently, with the new service expected to be in place from 1 April 2017. This will give time for work to be completed in relation to a number of proposed changes to the School Health Service, including clarification in relation to provision of vision and hearing screening. The new integrated HCP service specification will incorporate all elements of the final re-modelled School Health Service. However, a number of uncontentious changes identified as part of the review and consultation process will begin to be implemented with the current service provider as soon as possible/during 2016-17.

Other Options Considered

14. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The report is for noting only

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required. Safeguarding is a key element of all commissioning plans for the service.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the proposals to re-model and re-commission the School Health Service, as part of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and Public Health Nursing Service, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

17. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KAS 08/12/15)

18. There are no financial implications contained within the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

Nottinghamshire School Nursing Review, September 2014 – implications for commissioners (including Appendices 1-3)

Healthy Child Programme and Public Health Nursing for children and young people, Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, 8th January 2014.

Nottinghamshire School Nursing Service Review – implications for commissioners. Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board, 6th November 2014

Healthy Child Programme and Public Health Nursing – commissioning plans, Public Health Committee, 12th May 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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