

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015****Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****HEALTHY CHILD PROGRAMME AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING: UPDATE  
REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Board on the current and future commissioning arrangements for the Healthy Child Programme and public health nursing for 0-19 year olds.
2. To inform the Board of proposals to integrate health visiting and school nursing services to provide a joined up Healthy Child Programme for Nottinghamshire.
3. To update the Board on the expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership programme.

**Information and Advice**

4. This report provides the Board with an update in relation to the commissioning of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and public health nursing (0 -19 year olds).

**Healthy Child Programme (HCP)**

5. The HCP<sup>1</sup> was published in November 2009 and sets out the recommended framework of services for children and young people aged 0 -19 years (including during pregnancy) to promote optimal health and wellbeing, prevent ill health and provide early intervention when required.
6. The HCP delivers universal services to all children and families, including routine screening and developmental checks. Through the programme, families in need of additional support and children who are at risk of poor outcomes can be identified and the appropriate support provided; a key aim of the HCP is to reduce health inequalities.
7. Effective implementation of the HCP (0-5 years) contributes to: a range of health and wellbeing outcomes such as strong parent-child attachment and positive parenting; care that helps to keep children healthy and safe (e.g. healthy eating, prevention of certain serious communicable diseases, increased rates of breastfeeding); and readiness for school and improved learning.
8. The HCP (5-19 years) aims to improve a range of public health outcomes including improved sexual health, reduced numbers of teenage pregnancies, healthy diet and exercise, improved educational outcomes, smoking prevention and cessation, alcohol and

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<sup>1</sup> The HCP comprises three guidance documents: HCP - pregnancy and the first 5 years of life; HCP - the 2 year review; HCP – from 5-19 years. The documents include a programme schedule of age appropriate health and development reviews.

substance use prevention and awareness, improved emotional health and wellbeing etc. The programme also incorporates the mandatory function of the delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

## **Public health nursing for children and young people**

9. The main groups of public health nurses who provide services to children and young people and their families are health visitors, school nurses and family nurses. This final group is delivering the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme.
10. A growing body of evidence indicates that the first few years of life play a significant and formative role in shaping people's health, wealth and future happiness. Health visitors provide a universal service to all families, with additional targeted support to those who need it. They have a valuable part to play during the first few years of a child's life and are responsible for ensuring that children get routine health and development checks to make sure they are well and progressing properly.
11. The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2010-2015 aimed to increase the number of health visitors in each locality. Targets have been achieved for Nottinghamshire (including Bassetlaw), with 158.4 whole time equivalent (wte) health visitors in post by April 2015.
12. In Nottinghamshire, a comprehensive review of the School Nursing Service has been completed and clear recommendations for a re-modelled service have been proposed. These proposals have been consulted on widely and the results of the consultation process will inform future commissioning intentions. For details see:  
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/information-for-schools/nursing-service-review/>
13. The School Nursing Service also delivers the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), a mandatory function for Public Health.
14. The **Family Nurse Partnership** (FNP) is an evidence-based, intensive preventive home visiting programme for vulnerable, first-time young parents that begins in early pregnancy and ends when the child reaches age two years. FNP has three aims, namely to improve pregnancy outcomes; to improve child health and development; to improve parents' economic self-sufficiency. The FNP Programme in Nottinghamshire was launched in February 2013.

## **Current commissioning arrangements**

### *Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)*

15. Currently the responsibility for commissioning Health Visiting and FNP services is delegated to NHS England. This responsibility will transfer to local authorities on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. Two NHS England teams cover Nottinghamshire and commission Health Visiting and FNP services in Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw respectively.
16. Health Visiting services and the FNP are currently provided across the whole of Nottinghamshire by Health Partnerships (County and Bassetlaw Health Partnerships), part of the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

## *School Nursing*

17. As with Health Visiting and the FNP in Nottinghamshire, Health Partnerships currently provide School Nursing Services.
18. The responsibility for commissioning of School Nursing Services for the whole of Nottinghamshire transferred to Public Health (PH) in the Local Authority in April 2013. Public Health is an associate commissioner to the NHS contracts with the current providers.

## **Proposed commissioning arrangements**

19. Once commissioning responsibility has transferred to NCC, Health Visiting services and FNP will be commissioned by the Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub (ICH), which currently leads commissioning of School Nursing and the NCMP. By bringing commissioning of all public health nursing services together, it will be possible to integrate these services more effectively and align them with other children's services provided or commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC).
20. It will be essential that close effective working relationships between GPs, primary care practitioners and health visitors and school nurses are maintained and developed. It is envisaged that these relationships between services provided to families will lead to improved service quality and better outcomes for children, young people and families, in addition to reducing duplication.
21. The current contracts with Health Partnerships for Health Visiting and School Nursing services expire on 31st March 2016, requiring NCC to undertake a procurement exercise in order to award a new contract during 2016-17. It is proposed that the current contracts are extended for a minimum of six months (subject to legal advice), ensuring that the services are in place at least until the end of September 2016. This then allows 12 months, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015, to align the commissioning of Health Visiting and School Nursing, and to re-procure an integrated 0 - 19 HCP service, to be in place from Autumn 2016.
22. The current contract for FNP expires in August 2015. The scope to integrate commissioning of FNP is limited due to the programme's licence restrictions. Additionally, FNP is due to be expanded, with the result that timescales for re-commissioning Health Visiting and School Nursing differ. This is described later in the report.
23. To oversee the smooth transfer of commissioning responsibilities from NHS England and the development of commissioning plans, an Early Childhood and HCP Integrated Commissioning Group has been established, with representation from NHS England, Children's Services, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and other key stakeholders.

## **Expansion of FNP**

24. An FNP progress report was presented to the Children's Trust Board in December 2014, detailing the positive progress that had been achieved since the programme's inception. The report also highlighted the gap between the service capacity and the eligible

population. The original programme commissioned in Nottinghamshire provided coverage to 14% of the eligible population compared, to a target of 25% nationally.

25. A recent review of parenting programmes by NCC's Children, Families and Cultural Services Department acknowledged the strong evidence-base for FNP and in recognition of this and the limited capacity within the current service, FNP has been identified as a priority area for additional investment.
26. Funding from the Supporting Families programme, totalling £1.5m, has been identified to enable the expansion of the current programme in Nottinghamshire and the funding has been approved by the Children and Young People's Committee.
27. Further funding of £142,000 has also been secured by NHS England North Midlands (previously NHS England Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team) to support the expansion, including training and programme delivery costs.
28. Subject to final confirmation of costs, the funding is expected to provide between 150-175 additional places on the programme over the next 3½ years, increasing coverage to approximately 25%, in line with the national target.

### **Other Options Considered**

29. An options appraisal is being developed to support decision making processes regarding the possible integrated commissioning of Children Centres with the HCP. These include the separate commissioning of the services; postponing the procurement of the HCP to fit in with Children Centre procurement plans, or advancing Children Centre procurement.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

30. The Board requires to be kept informed of commissioning plans for services for children and young people, in particular for Health Visiting and School Nursing as they have a key part to play in improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities for children and families.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

31. 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 only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, 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.

### **Financial Implications**

32. The commissioning budget for the Health Visiting Service and the FNP is due to transfer to NCC on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015, with the transfer of commissioning responsibility. The Health Visiting budget will be combined with the School Nursing Budget when commissioning the 5-19 HCP.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

33. Safeguarding is a key element of all commissioning plans for these services.

### **Implications for Service Users**

34. There will be improved health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people. Nearly 2,000 young people were consulted when reviewing the School Nursing Service to inform commissioning of the service to meet their needs.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board notes:

- 1) the current and future proposed commissioning arrangements for the Healthy Child Programme and public health nursing for 0-19 year olds.
- 2) the proposals to integrate health visiting and school nursing services to provide a joined up Healthy Child Programme for Nottinghamshire.
- 3) the planned expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership programme.

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**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

32. Because this report is for noting only no Constitutional Comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (KS 22/05/15)**

33. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 32 of 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 and proposed new model, September 2014 – implications for commissioners (including Appendices 1-3) available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolnursing](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolnursing)

Healthy Child Programme and Public Health Nursing for children and young people, Public Health Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/3495/Committee/507/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

‘Nottinghamshire School Nursing Review’ Nottinghamshire Children’s Trust Board – 5 September 2013

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/childrenstrust/about-the-childrens-trust/childrenstrustCommittee/>

Nottinghamshire School Nursing Review – implications for Commissioners, Children’s Trust Board 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/childrenstrust/about-the-childrens-trust/childrenstrustboard/?entryid217=431744&p=2>

‘Healthy Child Programme and Public Health Nursing for Children and Young People’ Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 8 January 2014

[http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/505/Default.aspx](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/505/Default.aspx)

Family Nurse Partnership Programme Progress Report – report to Children and Young Committee on 8 December 2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/3340/Committee/482/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Family Nurse Partnership – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 20 April 2015

## **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All.