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Date: 09 April 2014



Joyce Bosnjak
County Hall
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Re: Question Under Procedure Rule 39

The Department of Health has confirmed that responsibilities for the commissioning of public health responsibilities for 0 – 5 year olds will transfer from NHS England to local government on 1 October 2015.

The Government are increasing funding to ensure that around 4200 FTE health visitors should be in post by April 2015.

Can the committee chair inform members at what stage of preparation the authority is, in anticipation of the commissioning of these services being the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Dear Councillor Zadrozny

Thank you for your question.

The public health responsibilities for 0-5 years cover commissioning of health visiting services and the Family Nurse Partnership Programme and this responsibility will, as you have mentioned, transfer to local authorities on 1 October 2015.

Preparations for transfer of the responsibility to Nottinghamshire County Council are well underway. The current NHS England Area Team lead commissioners for public health 0-5 years are both members of the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board and the Early Help Executive, where there have been briefings and discussion relating to the transfer of responsibilities.

In addition, officers from Public Health within the authority are meeting on a monthly basis with current commissioners in the NHS England Area Teams to develop transition plans, identify and agree current budgets and hand over performance management processes.

Within the next two months it is planned that Public Health leads will attend meetings with the Area Team colleagues and the current provider of the services to establish and develop the commissioner-provider relationship.

As stated, the Government has increased funding to ensure that, nationally, around 4200 full time equivalent health visitors are in post by April 2015, leading to an increase in the number of health visitors in each locality. In Nottinghamshire, the target is to have 158.2 full time equivalent health visitors in post by April 2015 – from a baseline of 82.62 in May 2010. Current commissioners and providers are confident that this target will be achieved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce".

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak
(Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Nottinghamshire County Council)