

Health Child Programme 0-19

National evidence based universal programme

Launched 2009

Update March 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-0-to-19-health-visitor-and-school-nurse-commissioning>

Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

Key headlines

- We want all children to be ready to learn at 2
- We want all children to be ready for school at 5
- We want all children ready for life when they reach adulthood
- There is a national commitment *to modernise the programme over the next few years* and to ensure it is both current in terms of *evidence* and *context*

Ready to learn at 2

begin to form sentences and can put two or three words together



understand their teeth need brushing by an adult twice a day



use a spoon competently to eat



play alongside other children and begin to have their own friends



Key milestones for children at 2 include



be well nourished and within normal weight for height



have up to date immunisations



Key headlines-impetus for modernisation

- Influenced by NHS Long term Plan
- Move towards place based approaches
- Providers will be equipped to design effective, family orientated service ... that build on the local assets and community based approaches with a strong emphasis on what works
- Recognising that care by HV and SN teams has been a crucial part of pandemic response

Extending the HCP to include:

- Preconceptual care
- Extend from 19 to 24 years for those children with a statutory requirement
- Including some of our most vulnerable children eg those in the care system and with additional needs or a disability
- *Modernising the HCP will take time and will be coproduced with professionals ,children, young people and families*

Key priority areas

- Preconceptual care
- Maternity
- Effective care continuity between midwifery and HV
- Narrowing of the word gap to reduce inequalities
- Mental health assessments by a health visitor at all mandated assessments

Focus

- On needs assessment/professional judgement
- Interventions that are personalised to respond to families across time
- Contacts at 3 and 6 months (non mandated)
- Support for breastfeeding
- Mental health (inc fathers)
- Healthy diet
- Safer sleep
- Parent facing digital content

Opportunity

- To bring together a robust approach across both health and the LA for 0-19
- Defined support in early years and educational settings for children with additional and complex needs
- A public health pathway for children and young people
- HVs and SNs are key to supporting the early help system early intervention and the TF/Supporting Families programme

School Nursing-scope

- 5-19 maintained schools and academies
- 6 high impact areas
- Transition
- Vulnerable children and those not in school
- Home educated
- Early help –TF/Supporting families programme
- Contribute to safeguarding (nuance around attending CP conferences)
- Scope for co-commissioning with schools to enhance core school nursing service

Role of the public health nursing workforce

- The only workforce that can engage with all families in their own homes
- Predominantly family needs are met by the universal offer
- Whilst receiving specialist support , the HV/SN still provide the universal offer and work in partnership