

# Transfer of 0-5 children's public health commissioning to local authorities

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 7 January 2015

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Author: Acting Director of Public Health

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

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## 1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 In October 2015, commissioning of the Healthy Child Programme (0-5 years) will transfer from NHS England to Local Authorities.

1.2 The purpose of the report is to provide a local update on the transfer of the commissioning responsibility for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme and the Family Nurse Partnership from NHS England to local authorities.

## 2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

2.1 Note this report and welcome the Local Authority's Healthy Child Programme (0-5 years) new commissioning responsibility from October 2015.

## 3. Detail

3.1 The Healthy Child Programme is the early intervention and prevention public health programme that provides a universal service for children and families at a crucial stage of life.

3.2 It provides an important opportunity to identify families that are in need of additional support and children who are at risk of poor outcomes. Transition to parenthood and the first 1001 days from conception to age 2 is widely recognised as a crucial period, impacting and influencing the rest of the life course.

3.3 The Programme offers every family a programme of screening tests immunisations, developmental reviews, and information and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices.

3.4 These services ensure that children and families achieve their optimum health, wellbeing and best life chances.

3.5 The Healthy Child Programme (0-5 years) is currently commissioned through NHS England as part of the section 7a mandate of the Health and Social Care Act (2012). The programme includes health visiting and the family nurse partnership programme. Commissioning of Child Health Information Systems will continue to be provided by NHS England until 2020 when it is expected that this

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responsibility will also be transferred to Local Authorities. All of these services are delivered by Swindon Borough Councils Children, Families and Health directorate.

- 3.6 Health visiting is a workforce of specialist community public health nurses who deliver the universal 0-5 Healthy Child Programme. They provide advice, support and interventions to families with children in the first years of life, and help empower parents to make decisions that affect their family's future health and wellbeing. The service is central to delivering public health outcomes for children.
- 3.7 Family Nurse Partnership is an intensive, evidence based, structured, home visiting programme, which is offered to first time parents under the age of 20. A specially trained family nurse visits the mother regularly from early pregnancy until the baby is 2 years old and builds a close, supportive relationship with the family
- 3.8 The Healthy Child Programme (5-19 years) is already commissioned by Local Authorities and in Swindon the school nursing service employed by the local authority lead this programme. Responsibility for commissioning this service transferred across with Public Health responsibilities in April 2013.
- 3.9 In October 2015, commissioning responsibilities for the healthy child programme (0-5 years) will transfer across to Local Authorities from NHS England. The transfer of the commissioning responsibilities for the 0-5 healthy child programme (HCP) and Family Nurse Partnerships will join-up the commissioning already carried out by Local Authorities for public health services for children and young people 5-19, (and up to age 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).)
- 3.10 Swindon has a long history of commissioning the healthy child programme (0-5) as this was part of the joint commissioning arrangements with the PCT. The arrangements were governed through the National Health Services Act 2006 Section 75 Agreements. Although it is only the commissioning responsibility being transferred nationally, In Swindon an integrated approach already exists with both these services provided by Swindon Borough Councils early help teams and staff employed by Swindon Borough Council.
- 3.11 Following the transfer of the commissioning responsibility in October 2015, the funding for the service will be added to existing public health grant allocations to local government to form an overall public health grant allocation The public health grant allocation formula will be amended to take account of the transfer of commissioning responsibility for the 0-5 Healthy child programme and the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) and the Secretary of State has written to the Chair of

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the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation to include this in their work programme.

- 3.12 Swindon Borough Council have completed returns in conjunction with the NHS England Area Team to build an accurate and well understood picture of 0-5 finances and contracts in 2014/15 and forecasts for delivery for the whole of 2015/16.
- 3.13 Following a number of concerns that we have raised with the area team and NHS England regarding the allocation confirmation has now been received that the baseline will include additional funding for the commissioning of 0-5 services and that the LGA will confirm the funding for future health visiting training and growth based on rising birth rate. There will be a consultation period on the final allocation.
- 3.14 Subject to parliamentary approval, the aim is that regulations will be in place by May 2015, with a 'sunset clause' at 18 months. A review at 12 months involving Public Health England, will inform future arrangements.
- 3.15 A fact sheet has been produced that outlines these proposals  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/347047/Mandation\\_factsheet\\_final\\_22-8-14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347047/Mandation_factsheet_final_22-8-14.pdf)

## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options exist as this has been mandated nationally.

## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report. The funding being transferred is in line with existing funding for 14/15.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications arising from this report.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 There is no Diversity Impact Assessment for this report.

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## Risk Management

- 5.5 A risk assessment has not been completed as this report is not recommending a specific amendment to a policy or strategy.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 None.