

Appendix A – The Healthy Child Programme/National Framework for Maternity Children and Young People.

Health Visiting and School Nursing Overview & Vision

Overview: The [Healthy Child Programme](#) (HCP) and new **National Framework**

Since 2008 the HCP has been the **national evidence-based universal health programme for children aged 0 to 19**. The 0 to 5 element is led by health visiting services and the 5 to 19 element is led by school nursing services. Together they provide place-based services and work in partnership with maternity services, education and other providers where needed. The universal reach of the HCP provides an invaluable opportunity from early in a child's life to identify families that may need additional support and children who are at risk of poor outcomes.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities announced a revised model for HCP which is being renamed as **The National Framework for Maternity Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing**. The core of the new Framework will continue to be the National [Model Specification](#)

The HCP and national framework is comprised of **mandatory** (Health Visiting) and **advisory** (School Nursing) service offers operating from the perinatal life course stage to transition into adulthood from the 18th or 25th year¹. Whilst the HCP expressly addresses public health physical health priorities for CYP and their parents or carers parity of esteem for MH & Wellbeing and physical health is a consistent aspect of the offer across all age ranges.

The HCP has been substantially updated by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) in 2020 and is now explicitly linked to a number of other agenda areas ([Maternity Services](#), [Best Start for Life – tackling the first 1001 days](#), [Family Hubs](#), [SEND Code and review](#), CYP Mental Health and wellbeing and both Covid 19 Pandemic safe delivery and restoration of services for CYP.

The HCP has two interrelated Domains with **Four Levels of Service offer**: Community, Universal, Specialist and Targeted alongside **Three Core aspects to the delivery model**: Health and Wellbeing Reviews, Personalised Needs Based focus, Six Core High Impact Areas.

Mandated HCP elements	Advisory HCP Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • antenatal health promoting review • new baby review • 6 to 8-week review • 3-month contact • 6-month contact • 1-year review • 2 to 2-and-a-half-year review 	Universal health and wellbeing reviews & contacts as part of overall support 5 to 19, or 25 if appropriate , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 to 5-year-old health needs review • 7 to 8-year-old health needs contact • 10 to 11-year-old health needs review • 12 to 13-year-old health needs review • school leavers post-16 health needs review • transition to adult services • 18 to 24 year old health needs review

The [High Impact Areas](#), with additional information for maternity, provide an evidence-based framework for those delivering maternal and child public health services from preconception onwards. They are central to the health visitor and school nurse delivery model.

¹ Depending on the complexity of the health needs of individual CYP and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) status

High Impact areas for Health Visiting	high impact areas for School Nursing
Health visitors lead the Healthy Child Programme 0 to 5 and the 6 early years high impact areas:	School nurses lead the Healthy Child Programme 5 to 19 and the 6 school age years
Supporting the transition to parenthood	Supporting resilience and wellbeing
Supporting maternal and family mental health	Improving health behaviours and reducing risk taking
Supporting breastfeeding	Supporting healthy lifestyles
Supporting healthy weight, healthy nutrition	Supporting vulnerable young people and improving health inequalities
Improving health literacy; reducing accidents and minor illnesses	Supporting complex and additional health and wellbeing needs
Supporting health, wellbeing and development: Ready to learn, narrowing the 'word gap'	Promoting self-care and improving health literacy

Taken together, the High Impact Areas describe areas where health visitors and school nurses can have a significant impact on health and wellbeing, improving outcomes for children, young people, families and communities. These High Impact Areas do not describe the entirety of the role and of the health visiting and school nursing services but give a clear outline of priority areas for alignment and integration including Maternity and School based services.

Vision for the 0 to 19 Service Offer:

0 to 19 services face significant challenges associated with rising levels of need, severity of presentations and widespread and enduring workforce challenges that make it hard to see a continuance of provision if opportunities for local and regional level working is not embraced.

The wide range of issues covered by health visiting and school nursing services present clear opportunities for alignment of resources, strengthening of current multiagency practices and colocation of personnel across priority agenda areas as shown below

Service Area	Suggested priority areas for alignment, integration, colocation, etc
HVs - 0 to 5	Maternity Services Family Hubs
SNs - 5 to 19/25	Mental Health and Wellbeing Long Term Conditions
All Service areas	Family Hubs & Parent and Carer support Safeguarding SEND Mental Health and Wellbeing Child Death Prevention and Bereavement Support Vulnerable Cohorts/Health Inequalities

A collaborative and nuanced approach to aligning the commissioning of 0 to 19 services at a regional level could empower and accelerate the areas of alignment and integration set out above and provide additional and earlier supportive inputs to the communities that depend on having access to effective 0 to 19 services. Such alignment could be both sustainable and help improve the reach, quality of service delivery and sustainability of 0 to 19 public health services.