

# Buckinghamshire School Nursing Service

**Vision:** A Buckinghamshire School Nursing service that is visible, accessible and confidential, which delivers universal public health and ensures that there is early help and advice available to children, young people and families at the times when they need it".

**Current Service:** The school nursing service has been limited in delivering on this vision for some time; this has been influenced by many factors including staffing capacity, a rise in complexity and demand for safeguarding interventions and increased service delivery on the necessary extensions to the national immunisation programme.

Funding for the school nursing service also devolved last year and the service is currently commissioned by three separate groups:

Healthy Child Programme – Public Health, BCC

Immunisations – Thames Valley Area Team

Enuresis – CCG's within the county

Public health (PH) commissioned an external consultant (Kath Lancaster) in March 2013 to scope out the school nursing service and to make recommendations on how and where the service could be improved. Further to the scoping exercise PH have since commissioned the Lancaster Model and from September 2014 the school nursing service will be delivered following its principles.

## What does this mean for the school age Children and Young People in Buckinghamshire?

All parents of school entry children will be asked to complete a health review questionnaire **online**. The data will be collected and stored confidentially by Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and only aggregated, anonymous health data will be shared with the schools and with public health.

The questionnaires will be analysed electronically and health alerts sent to the school nurse teams. The school nurse team will in partnership with the family and the school make contact and work with the child and their family to address any health or lifestyle issues identified.

If after a series of planned interventions the desired outcome is not achieved the Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) will refer the child and family on to the appropriate agency/professional for further assessment and help.

This system replaces the existing hard copy questionnaires that are sent out every year, those questionnaires have always been collated manually; the digital version will give back face to face capacity to the school nursing service and will ensure that all children receive an equitable service with timely follow up where necessary.

New for this year will be the introduction of a health review questionnaires for year 6 and year 9 pupils, these questionnaires are designed to be completed **online**, in school by the children and young people themselves. A SCPHN nurse will be available to support these sessions which should take approximately thirty minutes to complete.

These questionnaires are anonymous and contact will only be made if the child or young person indicates that they want it. One purpose of all the reviews is to gain public health data which will help create a health profile for the school. The profile will identify three key areas for the school and nursing team to collaborate on to produce positive health outcomes that are specific to the needs of that particular school population; this may involve multi-agency working, whole school approach, small group delivery or individual interventions.

## Extended Service Delivery Plans:

Every school in Buckinghamshire will have a named Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN). Contact details can be found on the service website - <http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/School-nursing>

Universal offer of Drop-in/Health zones in all Secondary schools.

Universal offer of PHSE support to all schools

New parent/carers talk with full explanation of the on-line questionnaire Wellbeing Review

Support for those parents/carers who do have access to the internet

A Swift response to identified health needs

Full delivery of the National Immunisation Programme

One to one support for children in primary schools

Health screening for all children and young people (NCMP, vision and hearing via the questionnaire)