



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

7 July 2022

**Report of the Director of Public Health
Derbyshire County Council**

0-19 Public Health Nursing Service 2020-21 Academic Year Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board an update in relation to the delivery of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service over the 2020-21 academic year (September 2020 to August 2021).

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 The Section 75 Partnership Agreement between Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Public Health and Derbyshire Community Health Services Foundation Trust (DCHS) for the delivery of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing service commenced on 01 October 2019.
- 2.2 Covid-19 has continued to have a significant impact on the delivery of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing service during the 2020-21 academic year. Public Health have continued to have quarterly performance review meetings with DCHS (although reduced KPI reporting was approved to help free up capacity within the service to focus on the Covid-19 response), and although stood down during the earlier stages of the pandemic the bi-monthly meetings for the Strategic Governance Group (SGG) that oversees the Section 75 agreement were reinstated fully in March 2021.

Impact of Covid

- 2.3 In March 2020 the '*Covid-19 Prioritisation within Community Health services*' national guidance was issued. This guidance stated that health visiting activity should stop except:
- Antenatal contact (to be delivered virtually where possible)
 - New Birth Visits (NBV)
 - Safeguarding
 - Other contacts assessed and stratified for vulnerable families or those in clinical need
- 2.4 This guidance also stated that school nursing activity should stop except:
- Telephone and text messaging services
 - Safeguarding
 - Specialist school nursing
- 2.5 In response to this guidance the service stood down the delivery of the Health Care Professional (HCP) reviews at the 6-8week, 12 month and 2-2½ year timepoints, unless a safeguarding issue, a clinical need or other vulnerabilities were identified. All elements of school nursing unless prioritised within the guidance were also stood down and additional capacity was placed within the Single Point of Access (SPA) to respond to requests for support from parent/carers.
- 2.6 In June 2020 further national guidance stated the full restoration of health visiting and school nursing services with some prioritisation where indicated and where capacity dictates. As a result, emphasis was placed on the restoration of the 6-8 week that was re-installed in June 2020, with the 2-2½ year review restored in July 2020 and the 12-month review restored in September 2020 when capacity was available.
- 2.7 Alongside re-instating HCP reviews significant capacity was directed at undertaking mop up reviews for those that did not receive a 6-8 week, 12 month and 2-2½ year reviews at the time when these should have been completed. The school nursing service also had to deal with a huge backlog created by work that could not be undertaken during earlier stages of the pandemic in areas that were not prioritised.

0-19 Public Health Nursing performance during 2020-21 academic year

- 2.8 Reduced KPI was agreed until April 2021 to help the service focus efforts on responding to the pandemic.

2.9 Table 1 below highlights the service’s performance against the KPIs during the period covering the 2020-21 academic year.

Table 1: 0-19 Public Health Nursing KPI reporting for 2020-21 – To note data was not collected across some KPI’s that were not applicable during the months where there was either no activity delivered, or reduced reporting had been agreed between DCC and DCHS to free up capacity within DCHS to respond to the pandemic.

KPI	Target	September 2020- August 21											
		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Antenatal contact	93%	96%	95%	91%	88%	86%	84%	86%	88%	91%	95%	96%	94%
New Baby review – Between 10 & 14 days	94%	94%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%
New Baby review – normally between 10 & 14 days completed within 3 months of birth	100%	Data not collected during this period due to the impact of the pandemic.							100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
6/8 week review	95%	94%	99%	97%	98%	96%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	97%	98%
All families seen receive a post natal promotional interview at 6/8 week review	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mothers who received a mood review by	95%	94%	99%	97%	98%	96%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	97%	98%

the time the infant reaches 8 weeks													
Mothers who received a mood review within 3 months	100%	Data not collected during this period due to the impact of the pandemic.							100%	100.0%	100%	100%	100%
Infants being breastfed at 6 weeks	42.2%	40.7%	46.0%	45.1%	41.6%	44.2%	46.9%	43.4%	41.8%	47.8%	43.5%	44.4%	43.3%
Sustainment rate 10 days to 6 weeks	78.3%	79.8%	80.6%	79.3%	75.3%	80.2%	82.7%	79.2%	77.9%	81.5%	78.5%	79.0%	79.5%
Completion of 12 month review	97%	Data not collected during this period due to the impact of the pandemic.							97%	98%	98%	100%	99%
Completion of 12 month review by the time the child reaches 15 months	100%	Data not collected during this period due to the impact of the pandemic.									93%	99%	100%
Completion of 12 month review regardless of timeframe	N/A	Restoration of 12 month review			99%	97%	98%	99%	Backlog fully restored				
Completion of 2 year review	93%	Data not collected during this period due to the impact of the pandemic.							99%	99%	98%	100%	99%
Completion of 2 year	N/A	Restoration of 2 year review	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	Backlog fully restored					

review regardless of timescale													
Pupils reaching the sickness absence threshold receiving a health plan	TBC		25%	100%	50%	67%	89%	94%	83.0%	60%	64%	62%	78%
Pupils receiving a health plan identified as young carers	100%		82%	86%	83%	95%	97%	96%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%

- 2.10 The data provided in table 1 above shows that despite the challenges and disruption to services caused by the pandemic, the performance against the majority KPIs has remained on or above target for all of the of KPIs throughout all or the majority of the 2020-21 academic year.
- 2.11 Performance against the HCP reviews has remained relatively consistent throughout the pandemic. Data on the number of 12 month and 2-2½ years reviews included those completed as part of the catch-up exercises until April 2021, thus reported as reviews completed regardless of the timeframe until March 2021. From April 2021 normal KPI reporting resumed for both HCP reviews.
- 2.12 The KPI around children receiving a health care plan who have reached the sickness threshold is for information only. No KPI target was set for 2020-21. This was because the increased level of pupil absence due to Covid-19 and self-isolation, as well as School Nurse's having reduced access to see pupils in schools created additional barriers for the service to appropriately identify and undertake health care plans with young people who met the school sickness threshold.

Addressing Under-Performance

- 2.13 During the 2020-21 academic year the KPI's relating to the antenatal review, pupils receiving health care plan identified as young carers and 12-month review delivered within 15 months were performing significantly below the KPI target for a period of time. However, there are no long-term concerns for the performance of any of these KPIs. This is because the main factors impacting the performance of these KPIs were due to issues in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and have been addressed. For example, the difficulties of School Nurses gaining access to schools the main factor impacting performance against the number of health care plans being below target during the earlier months of the 2020-21 academic year. Performance of the antenatal contact was also below target during the second wave of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown during the winter months of 2020-21. All HCP reviews along with universal plus and universal partnership plus was continued to be delivered at a time of high levels of staff absence due to sickness and self-isolation as a result of the Covid-19. This placed additional strain on the health visiting service and as a result the number of antenatal reviews delivered within the timeframe fell below target for a short period. First time mums and those where there were known concerns within the family were prioritised as part of the antenatal review, however in areas where staffing was a major issue some antenatal reviews where there were no known concerns and where this was not the mums first baby were not

prioritised during the second Covid-19 wave. By taking this approach the service was able to ensure that the service could continue deliver an effective service elsewhere and in the antenatal period to those most in need. Issues relating to any underperformance during the year have been addressed and all KPIs were performing on or above the targets by the end of the academic year which has been a big achievement by the service.

Moving Forward

2.14 The main challenge for the service moving forward is to ensure as minimal as disruption as possible to service delivery during any future Covid-19 waves or any other factors that may have an adverse widespread impact on the delivery of the service.

2.15 To support with this, a report is being developed for the Strategic Governance Group (SGG) that oversees the Section 75 Partnership Agreement looking at the service's response to the delivery of HCP reviews following the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020, and how well the service restored elements of service delivery that had to be stood down during the earlier stages of the pandemic. The lessons learnt and recommendations made by the SGG following the completion of this report will help feed into the longer-term planning for the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service to ensure any future disruption to service delivery against the KPIs is kept to a minimum.

Developments of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing service during the 2021-22 academic year

2.16 During the 2021-22 academic year and beyond the service will strive to make continued service developments within the following areas:

- Maternal Perinatal Mental Health – following increasing numbers of calls received through the Single Point of Access (SPA) from mothers seeking help with their mental health and anxiety. DCHS commenced a train the trainer approach on Emotional Wellbeing Visits (EWV) for all Health Visitors, designed to introduce them to an integrated assessment and intervention framework to inform the support that Health Visitors provide to mothers (and partners) with mental health issues.
- Enhanced Drop-In Service - During the 2020-21 academic year appointment only services could be offered in schools due to the Covid-19 restrictions. It was only from September 2021 that the School Nurses could consider re-establishing the enhanced drop-in services. Therefore, one of the main areas for development over the 2021-22 academic year is to reinstate the enhanced drop-in service.

- Roll out of the 3-3 ½ year review – The development of this new pre-school contact to support the school readiness agenda had to be postponed at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Priority during the 2020-21 academic year was on the full restoration of the services delivered prior to the pandemic. During the 2021-22 academic year priority will be given towards the roll out of the new pre-school contact.

Conclusion

- 2.17 The 2020-21 academic year continued to be a challenging year for the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service, as the service continued in its response to the Covid-19 pandemic and restoring elements of the service delivery model that were either stood down or delivered via alternative means during the earlier stages of the pandemic.
- 2.18 Despite these challenges, performance in relation to the KPIs has remained satisfactory and the service continues to make great efforts to help achieve the best outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 2.19 There have been numerous priorities identified for the 2021-22 academic year to ensure the service continues to develop the delivery model and restore elements of the service in line with the current service specification. Both DCC and DCHS are committed to work in close partnership over the next academic year and beyond to deliver the best possible service for the families of Derbyshire residents.

3. Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) Note the content of this report

4. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 4.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing services during the 2020-2021 academic year.

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