

Promotion of the 5-19 School Nursing Service in Central Bedfordshire

PURPOSE

1. To brief Board Members on the 5-19 School Nursing Service provision in Central Bedfordshire.
2. To inform Board Members on how the service is publicised and promoted to children and young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Board Members consider and comment on current and planned strategies for the continued promotion of the 5-19 School Nursing Service, in order to increase access and support to the service, for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire.

PUBLIC/EXEMPT: Public

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BACKGROUND

4. On 16 September 2015 the Children's Trust Board raised some queries regarding the School Nursing Service in Central Bedfordshire:
 - i. Details on the number of school nurses, and whether each school has one;
 - ii. How often they are there;
 - iii. The communication that takes place with children and young people to raise awareness of school nurses.

HEADLINES

5. The 5-19 School Nursing Service staffing allocation for Central Bedfordshire is:
 - 12.0 FTE School Nurses;
 - 8.26 FTE Community Staff Nurses;
 - 5.69 FTE Health Care Assistants;
6. Every mainstream school, special school (non complex medical needs) and alternative provision in Central Bedfordshire has a named School Nurse (133 schools). School Nurses work in partnership with schools, parents/carers and pupils to ensure that children and young people with additional and/or complex health needs are supported as required.

They provide public health interventions (including health promotion and intervention), training and support for school communities as appropriate.

7. School Nurses offer early help to support young people, including being available to give advice from an early age on matters such as puberty, drugs and alcohol, healthy relationship, sexual health, smoking, healthy weight and mental health and wellbeing.
8. The School Nursing Service also leads on the delivery of School Entry Health Assessments in Year R, Health Reviews in Year 6, the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) in Years R & Year 6, and all school-based immunisations.
9. A weekly 'School Nurse Drop-In session' is provided for all schools with children in Year 7 (ages 11/12) upwards, including special schools and alternative provision (37 schools). As part of the 'Drop-In' service, School Nurses provide advice and support on: emotional health and wellbeing; sexual health; reducing and stopping smoking; healthy weight; reducing misuse of drugs and alcohol; managing stress and anxiety at exam times and offering general support with the school's PSHE/SRE curriculum.
10. The School Nursing Service also provides Tier 1/2 Emotional Health and Wellbeing interventions for children and young people where a specific issue has been identified, i.e. anger, anxiety, sleep difficulties, eating disorder, alcohol or drug issues etc. A School Nurse provides immediate advice and/or further in-depth assessment or referral to other agencies with interim support. The team are skilled to provide up to 6 contacts as appropriate, followed by review and evaluation of the intervention, with onward referral if required.

HOW THE SERVICE IS PROMOTED

11. In July 2015 2 School Nursing Service events were held to launch the full service offer to schools and to showcase some of the work of the service to schools. School Nurses presented some case studies that highlight their role in early help and intervention, and successful multi agency working in supporting students' attainment and wellbeing.
12. All schools have been asked to sign a partnership agreement with the service which outlines the service offer and also provides details of staff contacts; the service's short referral form, and a schedule of all the Drop-Ins held in schools. The partnership agreements will be re-issued in November to any schools that have not yet returned the signed agreement.
13. Presentations have been delivered by the School Nurse Practice Development Lead to a range of multi-agency groups – e.g. The Positive Parenting Network, the Missing Children and Young People's Panel.

14. Contact details for each School Nursing Team are provided for parents/carers in the covering letter that accompanies the Year R and Year 6 Health Assessments. Results to parent/carers are accompanied by a School Nursing Service leaflet.
15. School Nursing Service staff deliver assemblies in schools - outlining the service and providing an opportunity for pupils to meet with the School Nurse(s). They also present at Parents/Carers' Evenings to promote the service.
16. Public Health ensures that the School Nursing Service is actively promoted to schools through the PSHE/SRE Partnership Network, Central Essentials, Governors' Essentials, and Head Teachers' Forum meetings.
17. Public Health has recently disseminated some key prompts for schools to ensure that they are working in partnership to actively and continuously promote the School Nursing Service to young people and their families in their school community (see Appendix 1).

NEXT STEPS

18. The service – in partnership with young people - is currently developing a texting service for young people to access the service directly. This will be piloted in the summer term 2016, with full roll-out planned for September 2016.
19. A local School Nursing Service website is also being developed, which will link with other relevant agencies and organisations. Once the website is live, schools will be encouraged to include a link to this website on their own school website.