

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life: Update on the Integrated Health and Education Review for Children at 2½ Years

PURPOSE

1. The report outlines the progress of the implementation of the integrated health and education review for children aged 2½ years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Board Members support and promote the continuing roll-out and uptake of the Integrated Health and Education Review at 2½ years, with all relevant partners and stakeholders.

PUBLIC/EXEMPT: Public

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BACKGROUND

3. The Integrated Health & Education Review at 2½ years is a mandated element of The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) 0-5 years. The HCP is a universal prevention and early intervention programme and forms an integral part of Public Health England's priority to give every child the best start in life, including being "*Ready to learn at two and ready for school at five*".
4. Age 2½ is a crucial stage when problems such as speech and language delay, tooth decay or behavioural issues can be identified and effective, evidence based early interventions can improve outcomes.
5. The Integrated Review is provided for all families with a child aged 2/2½. If the child is already attending an early years setting, the health review will be integrated with the Early Years Progress Check.
6. Parents and carers actively participate in their child's review through the use of an 'Ages and Stages Questionnaire' (ASQ3™) including a specific assessment of social and emotional development. The Review focuses on:
 - speech, language and communication
 - personal, social and emotional development
 - physical development
 - learning/cognitive development
 - physical health, including oral/dental health and bladder/bowel health

all of which align with the Early Years Foundation Stage Prime Areas of Learning.

7. As part of the Integrated Review, Health Visitors also assess children in their family context, taking account of:
 - parenting capacity
 - home learning environment
 - family circumstances
 - social/community circumstances
 - the immunisation status of the child.
8. They will also promote the uptake of free early education and childcare for eligible children who have not taken up this offer.
9. Information gathered from the review informs discussions with parents/carers about their child's progress. The assessments identify strengths and emerging needs, problems or developmental delays. The Health Visiting Service – in close partnership with the family, and education and children's services - then plan and co-ordinate and appropriate support and interventions, and monitor the impact on the child's development and progress.

A case study is included as **Appendix A**

10. **Pilot of the Integrated Health & Education Review @ 2½ Years**
During 2015-16, the local providers for the 0-5 HCP Service – South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) - led the successful delivery of a Partnership Pilot Programme between Early Years and The Health Visiting Service to implement the Integrated Health & Education Review at 2½ years, with an initial focus on the areas of Biggleswade and Sandy.
11. Face-to-face integrated reviews were offered in all early years settings in these areas, which saw a significant increase in the uptake of the 2/2½ year review, as families who have children in early years settings are now more easily able to attend reviews. Parents reported having a more comprehensive understanding of the age appropriate social development of their children and identified - with the professionals - clear areas of work to support their child.
12. Staff reported that opportunities and referrals for appropriate early interventions for children with additional needs were more effective and efficiently delivered, due to the collaborative approach.
13. **Further implementation of the Integrated Health & Education Review @ 2½ Years**
The Integrated 2½ year Review is now being rolled out across all of Central Bedfordshire and the delivery of the 2½ year review has increased from 54.6% at the end of Q2 in 2015-16 (published data – Public Health England), to 76.3% at the end of Q2 2016-17 (local data), as families who have children in early years settings are now more easily able to attend reviews. SEPT are now actively engaged with all Children's Centres and Nurseries to meet the target for the delivery of >90% integrated 2½ year reviews by the end of 2016.

14. Staff in Early Years settings report that the integrated sessions are extremely positive and effective for them and that agreed support and planned outcomes for children are jointly owned by all families and professionals. Work is continuing to strengthen reporting systems and processes to ensure that the recording of assessments and follow-up plans is accurate and comprehensive, and is shared effectively with families and all partners.

15. **CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

All of the 0-19 teams in SEPT and Children's Centres are now working together to deliver the integrated reviews where a child **is not** in a setting by 2½ years. Engaging child-minders in the process is the priority for development over the next 6 months.

In partnership with SEPT and Early Years settings staff, local child-minders have designed a group session which they can attend with parents to ensure an integrated review takes place. This model will be rolled out across Central Bedfordshire by the end of Q4 2016-17.