



Partnership Agreement between Link Health Visitors and Children's Centres

Background Information

The Healthy Child Programme is a universal programme available to all children and aims to ensure that every child gets the good start they need to lay the foundations of a healthy life. The Healthy Child Programme is intended to enable effective, focused services where additional needs are identified along with use of the latest evidence on effective practice and helping to bring councils, the NHS and partners together to achieve priority outcomes for children and families. Delivering this vision is reliant upon a wide range of partners working together and embracing change in order to:

- ensure high quality services for children, young people and families from actions to improve women's health before, during and after pregnancy (Maternity Transformation Programme)
- give every child the best start in life (childhood obesity, speech, language and communication, immunisations)
- support school readiness and improve resilience for school-aged children.
- support young people transitioning to adult services

There is a link Health Visitor for each Children's Centre. The role of the link Health Visitor is to be a point of contact between the Children's Centre and the service to ensure that issues relating to the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme are addressed in an effective and timely manner.

Responsibilities of Link Health Visitor

Each Health Visiting team will have a named Link Health Visitor for the Children's Centre/s that they link with in their area. The named Health Visitor should meet with a named representative for each Children's Centre on a monthly basis, unless agreed otherwise with the Children's Centre. If a Children's Centre link with more than one HV team one meeting should be arranged to include a representative from each relevant HV team so that the CC centre does not need to hold multiple meetings. Where an HV team works with more than one CC it is suggested that a different HV takes on the role for each CC.

Liaison and information sharing about individual children is the responsibility of the child's allocated Health Visitor, and not the link Health Visitor for the Children's Centre. Information should only be shared where parental consent has been obtained to do so.

Meetings can be face to face or virtual.

Service provided by:





Issues to be discussed at each meeting should include:

- Service updates, staffing and capacity, service offers, joint training and collaborative working.
- Sharing of examples of good practice, reviewing pathways and processes and evidence based information giving.
- Brief minutes should be kept of these meetings to be stored in team and Children's Centre files.
- Children's Centres and Health Visitors should follow their own service procedures for reporting & logging concerns. **Note:** This meeting is not primarily for discussion of individual children of concern (concerns should be addressed with named Health Visitor) however it may be an appropriate forum for seeking advice from Children's Centre/Health Visitor colleagues.

If there are issues that arise during the meetings that cannot be resolved then Children's Centre staff and/or the Link Health Visitor should raise this with their respective line manager.