

	<p style="text-align: center;">Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5th March 2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from Chief Executive of NHS Brent</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>School Nursing</p>	

1.0 Summary

1.1 Since April 2008, NHS Brent has been responsible for both commissioning and providing school nursing services in Brent. From 1 April 2009, a nationally based contract will be in place for community services in Brent. A review of community services in Brent undertaken by the PCT in 2008/09 identified school nursing as a priority for development. An external review of school nursing commissioned by both commissioners and providers was undertaken in Autumn 2008.

1.2 School nursing is a universal service to 55,000 children and 2/3 of the current child protection plans in Brent. The service offers support to all children of school age.

Current service is under established and unable to meet national recommendations for one school nurse per secondary school. External reviews highlight the need for additional recruitment.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to comment on the draft specification for school nursing attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Currently school nurses work term time only with minimum cover during the school holiday periods. The team have been offered year round contracts and four of the team have expressed an interest in the change of conditions. This will create an immediate increase in the capacity for supporting school and the

families with child protection needs. All current recruitment will be offered on a full time rather than term time only basis and there is to be recruitment to new modular training programmes.

- 3.2 There are three separate recruitment drives:
- a) Current advertising for school nurses
 - b) sponsorship is available for recruiting students for the traditional model of school nurse training, which will be one academic year from September
 - c) recruitment of a cohort of staff nurses to undertake modular training over a two year period working across health visiting and school nursing.
- 3.3 NHS Brent commissioners, with input from the local authority through the joint commissioner for children, GPs involved in commissioning and Practice Based Commissioners, have developed a service specification for discussion and agreement with NHS Brent Community Services. The format of the specification is based on the national template. A working draft of the specification is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

4.0 Implementing the service specification

Members are asked to note:

1. the specification is still under discussion and has yet to be agreed but it is expected we will reach agreement on the specification by the end of March 2009
2. implementation is dependent upon additional funding from NHS Brent and completion of a service development programme
3. the PCT's investment panel approved an outline business case supporting 1 but this will be subject to Board approval on 2 April 2009
4. an implementation plan will be agreed by the end of April 2009
5. comments on the specification are invited.

5.0 HPV

HPV immunisations current uptake is excellent at 95% in the involved schools. HPV is a new vaccine offering protection against cervical cancer. We are currently vaccinating 13 year olds in most schools. Some schools are not collaborating, quoting religious reasons and those girls have the option to access the vaccine from their GP

6.0 Obesity strategy

Funding received for the development of a team to carry out the weights and measures for year 6 children

7.0 National Child Measurement Programme

The National Child Measurement Programme is a key part of the Government's work to tackle obesity. The programme aims to record the height and weight of all children in Reception Year and Year 6. This data will help PCTs plan services to support schools and target resources more effectively; it also provides vital data to analyse trends at national and local levels.

8.0 Pupil Referral Unit/Youth Panel.

Two dedicated School nurses. We have two school nurses identified to work with the targeted group

8.1 Background Papers

8.2 School nurse specification (Attached as Appendix 1)

8.3 Investment plan for school nurse and health visiting (not attached)

Contact Officers

Jo Ohlson, Director of Commissioning NHS Brent – 0208 795 6794

Sarah Thompson, Director of Provider Services NHS Brent– 0208 795 6457