

Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin

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This edition's headlines

Improving Birthing Environments Capital Grant Programme	Page 2
Integrated Review pilot testing	Page 3
New NHS Information Service For Parents – service is extended	Page 3
Child Line's Report – Saying the unsayable: What's affecting children in 2012	Page 4
Extension of the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Pathfinder Programme	Page 5

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all our readers!

Contents

[Maternity](#)
[Healthy Child Programme and Early Years](#)
[Child Health](#)
[Vulnerable Children](#)
[Ill and Disabled Children](#)
[Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing](#)
[Conferences and Events](#)
[Sources of information](#)
[Feedback and Contributions](#)
[Join the distribution list](#)

Maternity

Improving Birthing Environments Capital Grant Programme

A reminder that the deadline for submitting bids for Improving Birthing environments Capital Grant Programme in 2012-13 is 12:00 midday on Monday 31 December 2012.

Providers can bid for funding to support the refurbishment of maternity units, e.g. by adding ensuite facilities, new equipment such as birthing pools and facilities to allow fathers to support their partner and be involved.

More information is available from the following [link](#)

Guidance on U16 pregnancy checks

Determining pregnancy status in young female patients under 16 years of age is an area that clinicians may find difficult. Whilst regulators state it is required before surgical or radiological procedures the ethical, practical and contextual considerations can compromise compliance with good practice. This practical guide sets out the considerations and approaches that NHS organisations may consider when developing their policies in this area.

Supported by all the major professional clinical bodies and backed with evident statistics and tools it aims to support local members in brokering conversations and agreement around this sensitive process.

For further information click [here](#) or contact health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk

New bulletin for Maternity and Children's Data Set

A new bulletin is being launched to keep commissioners, providers, clinicians, system suppliers, service users and all other stakeholders informed about the Maternity & Children's Data Set (MCDS) and what actions are needed locally to support it. The data set has been specifically developed for all NHS-commissioned maternity, child health and child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services and is expected to drive better outcomes of care for mothers, babies and children.

The MCDS project will deliver a central system which will collect data from local providers of these services from across England. For the first time, mother and child (up to the age of 19) records will be linked across care pathways, providing actionable intelligence to support improvements at national and local level.

Key information:

- Providers of these services and their suppliers should now be amending local systems ready to start collecting data locally from 1st April 2013 as mandated by the ISB data set standards
- Central collection of local data from providers will be on a monthly basis starting with CAMHS on the 1st May 2013 for April's data, followed by Maternity

and Child Health on a phased basis. Data will be collected from local providers back dated to 1st April 2013 for all 3 data sets.

- This data set will be the data collection route for payments by results for children and maternity services.

You can sign up to receive the MCDS bulletin by clicking [here](#)

Further information about MCDS and the ISB data set standards is included on the Health & Social Care Information Centre website [here](#)

[Back to contents](#)

Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and Early Years

Transforming health visiting services - case studies published

Twenty case studies setting out how early implementer sites have driven the transformation of local services for children and families and capturing innovations across a range of service settings, have been published on the DH website.

They are intended as a resource for sharing and learning amongst NHS public health professionals and early years staff. The case studies listed cover one or more of the strands of the health visitor service vision and family offer: Community, Universal services, Universal plus and Universal partnership plus.

They can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

Integrated Review pilot testing

The Department of Health and Department for Education have a joint commitment to introduce an integrated health and education review for 2 - 2 1/2 year olds by 2015. This will bring together the Healthy Child Programme 2 year review and the Early Years Foundation Stage progress check, in a coherent, integrated way, and drawing on the different skills and experience of the health and education practitioners working with the child.

From January 2013, five pilot sites will start testing models of the Integrated Review across their areas for 12 months, supported by five 'pilot partner' sites where work is already progressing towards provision of an integrated review. The evaluation of the pilot testing will be carried out by an independent third party, and the Integrated Review Development Group will continue to meet through 2013 to further develop the review and support the pilot testing.

Further information on the integrated review can be found [here](#)

New NHS Information Service For Parents – service is extended!

The new NHS Information Service for Parents got off to an excellent start with 90,000 parents signed up to the service by mid- December 2012.

From May 2012, parents-to-be and new parents who sign up have been receiving regular emails, videos and texts, about pregnancy, the first few weeks of their baby's life and beyond. In October the service was extended to cover content for children up to 6 months old.

The service provides information covering a wide range of issues for parents including how a baby develops, finding antenatal preparation, improving their own health, breastfeeding, immunisations, where to get help and advice and much more. There are also over 100 short videos featuring experts giving advice, and real parents sharing tips.

Parents can sign up [online](#) or via SMS for text messages.

For more information please see the [fact sheet](#) for health professionals.

To order wallet cards to be handed out to mothers, please go to www.orderline.dh.gov.uk or the DH Orderline 0300 123 1002 quoting reference 900132.

For information on downloading the sign-up widget and adding it to your website please <mailto:support@informationserviceforparents.nhs.uk> or call 0845 458 0159.

[Back to contents](#)

Child Health

[Back to contents](#)

Vulnerable Children

Parenting Information Advice About Sexual Abuse

In response to the recent unprecedented public concern about child sexual abuse, the NSPCC has published an updated booklet on advice for parents who suspect their child may have been sexually abused and also a suite of web pages about how parents can protect children from sexual abuse.

The NSPCC's booklet '[What can I do?](#)' has been written to help parents recognise what is happening and to report their concerns.

This situation can be distressing for parents, but the importance of reporting concerns and protecting children as soon as possible is recognised.

Unfortunately, sexual abuse of children is under-reported. This means some children are exposed to long periods of abuse or denied treatment to assist with their recovery.

A suite of webpages to support the leaflet can be found [here](#).

Child Line's Report – Saying the unsayable: What's affecting children in 2012

This report provides a valuable insight into the 325,000 counselling sessions ChildLine gave in 2011/12 and represents one of the biggest snapshots of children's lives in the UK today.

What is most notable from this report is how children's emotional wellbeing appears to be challenged by the many pressures they face in the world today. Of particular concern is the huge rise in the number of girls who contact ChildLine about self-harm. Last year, 92% more counselling was provided to girls on this issue than in 2010/11. ChildLine recognises self-harm is an issue affecting greater numbers of young people. In addition, the amount of counselling ChildLine carried out relating to suicide increased by 39%. The issue was particularly acute among girls and those aged 16-18.

The report can be found [here](#)

[Back to contents](#)

Ill and Disabled Children

Extension of the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Pathfinder Programme

Twenty SEND Pathfinder sites, consisting of thirty-one local authorities have been commissioned to work with local partners to develop and trial a new streamlined assessment process, a joined up Education, Health and Care Plan, and personal budgets across education, social care and health, and adult services as appropriate for children and young people from birth to 25 years.

Department for Education Minister, Edward Timpson, announced on 6th November 2012 the extension of the SEN and Disability Pathfinders for 18 months to run through to September 2014.

For further information click [here](#)

[Back to contents](#)

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

[Back to contents](#)

Conferences and Events

[Back to contents](#)

Sources of Information

Child Health Information Systems (CHIS)

Every child in England should have an active care record supporting the delivery of screening, immunisation and the Healthy Child Programme in addition to other key services.

In November, the Department of Health published an *Output Based Specification for Child Health Information Systems* to supplement to existing NHS information standards documents. The document contains high level technical requirements for information systems to be procured to underpin the delivery of child health services in England. It incorporates policy, standards and guidelines for child health programmes, such as immunisation, screening and the [healthy child programme](#) detailed in the earlier published document [Information requirements for child health information systems](#). It can be used as a checklist for procurement or development of CHIS and will be of interest to those involved in the commissioning or delivery of CHIS and to those who rely on such systems to deliver effective services to children.

For further information please click [here](#)

Unless otherwise stated, guidance referred to in the bulletin has not been commissioned or endorsed by the Department of Health - it is evidence that organisations and professionals may find helpful in improving practice. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the Department's provider of accredited evidence and guidance, which can be found on the Institute's website at www.nice.org.uk

Department of Health Publications

As part of our commitment to reducing costs, the email address used to order Department of Health publications (dh@prolog.uk.com) is now closed.

Orders for publications can still be placed through the online shop - www.orderline.dh.gov.uk - which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or the Publications order line (0300 123 1002; Minicom 0300 123 1003), which is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. You can also check the availability of Department of Health publications, or the status of existing orders, through the online shop. If you do not have access to the Internet, then please call the publications order line.

[Back to Contents](#)

Feedback and Contributions

Do you have suggestions for improving the content of the bulletin? Please email cfmbulletincontributions@dh.gsi.gov.uk with your suggestions.

Gateway Ref: 18581

Do you have a news item or an event you wish to publicise in the next edition of the e-bulletin? If so, please send your copy to cfmbulletincontributions@dh.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm on 3 December. Your copy should be in the following format:

- 1) Title
- 2) Text up to 100 words with main message to start, followed by relevant key messages
- 3) Web link/s to relevant web page/s - **please ensure the links work**
- 4) Main contact point/source

[Back to contents](#)

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Please include name(s), full contact details and the date of any changes.

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Last name:

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Organisation type (e.g. NHS trust, PCT, etc.):

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[Back to contents](#)

30 November 2012

Dear Pathfinders

Extension of the pathfinder programme – next steps

Following the announcement on 6 November, we are writing to give further details of the extension. Our aim is to give pathfinders clarity on future arrangements so they can accelerate their testing and plan to scale up their test activity as quickly as possible. We want to ensure the maximum possible learning is available to support the passage of the proposed legislation through Parliament, and to support all areas to implement the Green Paper reforms.

There has been huge progress since the programme began. The extension signals a new phase, with some changes in our approach to reflect the already proven value of the programme, and to make the most of the innovative approaches that have been developed. We expect the large majority of pathfinder local authorities to continue receiving grant funding in 2013-14. Funding to individual pathfinder LAs will remain at least £150,000 per annum¹ in 2013-14. Funding levels for the final six months, from April 2014, are likely to be tapered to encourage the development of sustainable approaches as the programme comes to an end.

Grant letters for 2013-14 will be issued to LAs by the end of February 2013. In a small number of areas where there are specific concerns about progress, pathfinder LA leads will be contacted individually by Mott MacDonald on 3 or 4 December to discuss the steps that pathfinders need to take by February in order for new grant letters to be issued. If there are any pathfinder LAs who are considering whether they wish to continue in the extended programme, they should contact Mott MacDonald about this as soon as possible.

In developing grant letters for 2013-14, we will be applying more specific grant conditions than currently. This reflects there is already a significant body of learning emerging from the programme that we can draw on, and we need to ensure that sufficient progress is made to enable a robust evaluation and evidence to support wider implementation. Together with Mott MacDonald, we will be discussing with each pathfinder LA the specific targets they will be working towards in the extension period, based on their progress to date and the timetable for the independent evaluation and legislation. Negotiations will take place from December until early February. Specific grant conditions are likely to cover:

¹ In all but the one LA that currently receives less funding.

- Timetable for pathfinders to scale up their activities to full implementation, with tailored elements for pathfinders who have agreed to accelerate particular elements of testing. For example: numbers of families and young people with completed EHCPs by specific dates, broken down by key sub-groups (including new entrants, 19-25s); offering personal budgets (including, where appropriate, direct payments) to all families with an EHCP; further developing and refining the local offer; and ensuring sufficient coverage in the programme of post-16 learners.
- Working effectively across agencies, particularly joint working between local authorities and the health service to test joint commissioning arrangements in advance of new legal requirements, and working with post 16 providers.
- Sharing learning with non-pathfinder LAs through case studies and attending events (whilst recognising the capacity constraints on key staff).
- Sharing progress data with Mott MacDonald, SQW, DfE and DH to enable accurate reporting to the public and Parliament on progress of the programme (for example data on numbers of completed EHCPs).

Pathfinder champions

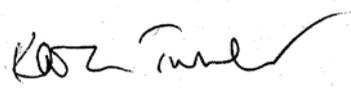
In addition to core grant funding, we are planning to offer additional funding to around 9-15 pathfinder LAs to act as pathfinder champions. These areas will be selected on the basis that they have already made strong progress in developing their pathfinder programme and have the experience and capacity to advise and support non-pathfinder LAs on how to implement the Green Paper reforms. The champion areas will be expected to act on a regional basis, sharing learning with neighbouring areas, and/or on a national basis, championing particular themes such as local offer or personal budgets. The additional funding could enable key staff (from LAs, health, schools, colleges and other providers) to be backfilled and released for this work, or to fund regional meetings.

All pathfinders will be eligible to submit an application for the pathfinder champion scheme, and Mott MacDonald will co-ordinate a light-touch selection process. The number of champions will depend on the applications received, regional factors, skills and experience mix. A specification and application details will be circulated in December, and the selection process will be completed before the end of February in order for the additional funding to be included in 2013-14 grant letters.

Evaluation and support

Finally, we are in negotiations with SQW regarding extending the independent evaluation by up to two years, and with Mott MacDonald regarding extending the pathfinder support team contract by one year. We will update pathfinders as soon as we can after negotiations have concluded.

With kind regards,

		
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