Our plans for the Health Visiting Service and School Public Health Services

Tell us what you think
Hello

We (Kent County Council) would like to tell you about our plans for how we provide the Health Visiting Service and School Public Health Services in Kent.

We would like you to read our plans and then tell us what you think. This is called a consultation.

You can do this by filling in the form at the end of this document and putting it in the post to the address: KCC Public Health Consultations.

Or you can fill in the form on the internet at: www.kent.gov.uk/healthychildren

You might need some help with this.

You can tell us what you think from 2 November to 14 December 2015.
Introduction

Kent County Council would like to help children and young people in Kent have good health and wellbeing.

We do this through our Public Health Department who have been in the council since 2013.

They are given money by central government to set up services for children and young people for their health and wellbeing.

Part of this work is done by the Health Visiting Service and the School Public Health Service.

They check on the health and wellbeing of children and young people up to the age of 19.

These services work well, but we would like them to be even better.

We have made plans to do this and would like to know what you think of them.
What are these services?

The Health Visiting Service is made up of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses and teams.

They give information, assessments and support for babies, children and families who have complex needs. This is done through the ‘Healthy Child Programme 0-5’.

Some of the main things they aim to do are:

- Improve life expectancy and a healthy life
- Reduce early deaths of infants
- Reduce low birth weight
- Reduce smoking in expectant mothers
- Promote breast feeding
- Reduce the number of children in poverty
- Make sure children are ready to attend school
- Reduce tooth decay
- and much more.
The School Public Health Service give information, advice and support to children and young people who are aged 5-19 in school across Kent.

The service is made up of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses and their colleagues.

**Some of the things they aim to do for primary children:**

- Reduce excess weight in 4-5 and 10-11 year olds
- Reduce hospital admissions caused by accident or deliberate injury
- Make sure children are ready to attend school.

**Some of the things they aim to do for older children:**

- Reduce smoking
- Reduce alcohol drinking
- Reduce under 18 pregnancies
- Reduce hospital admissions caused by accident or deliberate injury

**They also help to:**

- Increase young people’s emotional health and wellbeing
- reduce mental health problems and self harm.
Our plans

This section explains what we do at the moment and the plans we are thinking will make the service better.

We would like you to look at them and then tell us which of them you think is the best one and why.

Plan 1 - What we do now

At the moment we have a service for 0 to 4 year olds and a service for school aged children (5-19 year olds).

The number of professionals in the 0-4 year old Health Visiting Service has grown.

5-19 is a large age range and it can be difficult to meet all the needs of this group.
Plan 2

This plan brings the service into line with key stages in growing up.

There is the Health Visiting Service for those aged 0-4.

There is a primary School Public Health Service which looks at the needs of children aged 5-11.

And a secondary School Public Health Service which looks at the needs of children and young people aged 12-19.

This means the health service can be made just right for the different age groups.

Plan 3

This plan has two age groups within it.

There is the Health Visiting and School Public Health Service for those aged 0-11.
This service for those aged 0-11 focuses on the needs for that age group but does not change when they go to school.

This could help children to be more ready for school.

Then there is the secondary School Public Health Service for those aged 12-19.

This will look at the needs of this age group.

**Plan 3b**

Like the plan above this gives a service to those aged 0-11 with health Visiting and primary School Public Health Services.

But instead of this service doing everything there would be the opportunity to commission or arrange with another organisation extra clinical services.

For those aged 12-19 the secondary School Public Health Service would focus on the needs for this age group.
Tell us what you think

We would like to hear what you think of these plans.

What you tell us will be looked at carefully and used to make sure that the service we give is right for everyone.

You can fill in the form on the internet at: www.kent.gov.uk/healthychildren.

Or fill in this form and post it to the address on page 18.

You can tell us what you think until the 14 December 2015.

If you want to know more you can see the full documents on our website at: www.kent.gov.uk/healthychildren
Questions

1.(a) Please tick a box if you are filling in this questionnaire:

☐ as a parent/carer or relative of a 0-4 year old

☐ as a parent/carer or relative of a 5-19 year old

☐ as a child or young person who uses or used these services

☐ as a professional

☐ Other

If other please tell us
2. Which one of the our plans do you think best meets the needs of children and young people? (please tick)

- Plan 1 - what we have now
- Plan 2
- Plan 3
- Plan 3b
- Do not know
3. What do you think are the most important public health issues for children in primary school? (circle an answer)

- Being ready for school
- Injuries and minor ailments
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Sexual health
- Bullying
- Puberty and development
Smoking

Most important  Important  least important

Alcohol

Most important  Important  least important

Emotional wellbeing

Most important  Important  least important

Self-harm

Most important  Important  least important

How well they have done at school

Most important  Important  least important

Other (please write)
4. What do you think are the most important public health issues for children in secondary school? (circle an answer)

- **Being ready for school**
  - Most important
  - Important
  - Least important

- **Injuries and minor ailments**
  - Most important
  - Important
  - Least important

- **Nutrition and physical activity**
  - Most important
  - Important
  - Least important

- **Sexual health**
  - Most important
  - Important
  - Least important

- **Bullying**
  - Most important
  - Important
  - Least important

- **Puberty and development**
  - Most important
  - Important
  - Least important
**Smoking**
- Most important
- Important
- least important

**Alcohol**
- Most important
- Important
- least important

**Emotional wellbeing**
- Most important
- Important
- least important

**Self-harm**
- Most important
- Important
- least important

**How well they have done at school**
- Most important
- Important
- least important

**Other (please write)**
5. What skills and attitudes are needed to work well with different groups of children and young people? (Please write).

6. Do you have any other ideas that may help shape our plans? (Please write).
These questions are about you.

You do not have to fill them in if you do not want to.

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out.

That’s why we are asking you these questions.

We won’t share the information you give us with anyone else. We’ll use it only to help us make decisions, and improve our services.

7. Are you…?

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ I prefer not to say

8. How old are you?

☐ I prefer not to say
9. What ethnic groups do you belong to? (Your ethnic group is about lots of things, such as where your family comes from and the language you speak).

10. Do you have a disability? (A disability is if you have a problem or an illness to do with your mind or body, and it makes it hard for you to do everyday things)

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

11. If you have answered Yes to the question above, please tell us the disability or the impairment you have. You can tick more than one box.

- Learning disability
- Mental health condition
- Physical impairment
12. Do you belong to a religion or belief?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I prefer not to say

13. If you have answered Yes to the question above, which religion or belief is it?

☐ Heterosexual
☐ Gay/Lesbian
☐ Bisexual
☐ I prefer not to say
Thank you for taking the time to give us your views.

Kent County Council (KCC) collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. KCC respects the privacy of individuals and endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

What do I do with this form?

Freepost
KCC Public Health Consultations

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in other languages. Please contact 03000 421533. Text relay 18001 03000 421533