

From: Oxford Health

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:51 PM

Subject: Oxfordshire Healthy Child and Young People's 0-19 years Public Health Service

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to update you on developments that will see a new approach to providing health support services to families and young people in Oxfordshire.

Oxford Health recently won the contract to continue to provide the Oxfordshire Healthy Children and Young People's Public Health Service on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The new contract gives the trust an opportunity to improve the way services for families and young people are provided. The new model will retain the wealth of experience, commitment and expertise of the trust's teams and staff while introducing more efficient ways of delivery.

The new model will take a partnership approach to improving the health and life chances of children, young people, and families. The service focuses more on collaboration, preventing ill-health, addressing health inequalities, and ensuring high-quality universal services for all, while making the most of the available resources. The Healthy Child Programme will now have the flexibility to address local needs while still maintaining its focus.

This is a new model for public health interventions for children and young people in Oxfordshire. It combines health visiting, the family nurse partnership, vision screening, the national child measurement program, school health and college health nurses, safeguarding, and protective behaviours training into a single integrated 0-19 service. This service provides a single point of access (SPA) for families, children, and young people. In designing, we have listened carefully to the views of stakeholders, in particular children, young people and families themselves.

A new SPA means that health professionals and parents will benefit from an easier to contact and more coordinated service. Oxford Health's highly successful ChatHealth service, which gives parents and young people access to health visitor and school nurse advice via text, will be extended all year round for young people aged 11-19 years and will be open to their parents and carers as well.

Schools will also benefit from having a team available in their locality to support them. This new arrangement will be phased in over academic term three from April 2024 and will see nurses joining together in locally focused teams. This will bring greater resilience and retain the excellent level of service and expertise currently provided.

Across the new 0-19 offer will be a "Think Family" focus and approach and services will be needs-led in Oxfordshire's local communities. Support will be provided at community, universal, targeted and specialist levels in accordance with the [National Healthy Child Programme](#) guidance.

There will be an enhanced focus on school readiness. Children will have the offer of an additional universal development review at age four, and on transition to school with health visitor continuity until age eight where appropriate. School health nurses will continue supporting transitions into secondary school and into adulthood.

The young parents' pathway will be strengthened as the family nurse partnership will be integrated into public health nursing locality teams and will oversee the leadership of this programme. The school health and college health nurses will work closely with mental health support teams and CAMHS as well as working with schools to identify children and young people whose health and wellbeing may impact on being able to learn and attend school.

[Home-Start](#), a community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children, will be collaborating with Oxford Health's professionals in the delivery of extra support. [The Training Effect](#) will also work with Oxford Health to deliver an integrated model of support, preventative education and direct care at the universal, targeted and specialist level in regard to risk taking behaviour.

Elements of the new service start from 1 April 2024. There will be a phased implementation during year one as existing contracts end and embed into the service.

A collaborative work programme with 0-19 service delivery partners across BOB ICS is underway to share innovations, improve quality and support workforce development.

We will be providing more updates as work progresses to launch the services. In the meantime, do let us know if you have any questions or would like more information...

Yours sincerely,

Ansaf Azhar, Corporate Director for Public Health and Community Safety,
Oxfordshire County Council