

September 2020

Child Health Services
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Dear Head Teacher

Re: School Entry Health Review

I am pleased to inform you that Hampshire County Council commissioners have awarded the 0-19 public health nursing contract to Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust (SHFT). The contract start date was 1st August 2020 and, as the current provider, we are working hard to ensure a smooth transition to implement the new service. The changes within this contract, in relation to the school entrant contact, are summarised below.

Vision screening: The school entrant questionnaire previously provided for distribution to parents is no longer required. A new parent letter and vision consent form will be supplied by the school nurse team for distribution by school staff to the parent/carer of reception year pupils. Parents are asked to return a completed vision consent form to school. The school nurse team will make arrangements to collect the completed vision consent forms from school in the usual way.

National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP): Current national guidance for the NCMP is that it will be delayed until January 2021. Head teacher and parent letters will be sent to you nearer the time. Once resumed, the school nurse service will visit your school throughout the year to complete the height and weight measurements for reception year and year 6 pupils.

We will aim to complete the height and weight measurement and the vision screen at one contact. This will be during the term in which the child reaches 5 years of age, catching up those missed during the autumn term.

Hearing screening: is no longer required as part of the school entry health assessment. If parents have concerns about their child's hearing they are requested to access <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hearing-loss/symptoms/> for more information on what to look out for and when to see their GP.

Medical needs. For pupils with medical needs that require additional support in school, please contact your local school nurse team for advice and guidance.

Catch-up program. This includes completing outstanding vision screening for the current year 1 pupils that consented but were not seen last year. For those children that missed the hearing screen last year this will

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not be completed, however we will arrange to complete the hearing re-checks for those that previously failed the test. We aim to complete all of the catch-ups for the year 1 pupils during the autumn term.

Digital offer. We have a new service called ChatHealth 5-19 which is a text message advice line for parents of school-aged children. A text messaging service is an easy way for parents and carers to ask for help and information with a range of issues such as hearing, sleep, behaviour and transition to school. The service is available for parents and carers with children in Hampshire schools, educational settings and the elective home educated. The dedicated number is 07507332417. Once received, the school nursing service will respond within one working day. ChatHealth 5-19 is available Monday to Thursday from 9 am-4.30 pm and 9 am-4 pm on Fridays (excluding bank holidays).

Further information about ChatHealth is available on our new website called Hampshire Healthy Families <http://www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/>. The recently launched website provides health information and advice to parents, children, young people and schools. We are hoping you will promote it through your school website and newsletters.

Immunisations. SHFT now have a dedicated School-age Immunisation Service who will offer the nasal flu vaccine, during the autumn term, to all pupils from reception to year 7. You will be contacted by the team closer to the time with full details of the offer which I am pleased to inform you now includes a new electronic consent process.

Thank you

The pandemic has been an extremely challenging time and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support that enables the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme. In line with national and trust guidance, we are making all the necessary plans to ensure that when we attend your school we adhere to infection control and PPE requirements. Please do not hesitate to let the school nurse team know if there is any specific action we need to take before entering your school or if you require additional support from our service.

If you have any requests that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address above.

Alternatively, you can contact your local school nurse team in the usual way.

Yours sincerely

Julie Hooper
Area Manager School Nurse Service

