



Health Visiting

What is Health Visiting:

Health Visitors are qualified nurses or midwives with specialist community public health training and can offer health and wellbeing support to families with children aged 0 to 5 years. As a minimum, the health visiting service deliver the 5 mandated health reviews to families at the following points:

- Antenatal women more than 28 weeks pregnant
- New Birth Visit; 10days – 2 weeks
- 6–8-week visit
- 1 year review (9-15 months)
- 2-year review (24-30 months)

Health visiting provides a unique universal service, beginning in the antenatal period, that forms the foundation for safe, trusting and respectful relationships with families. Early contacts - specifically the antenatal, new birth and 6-to-8-week health and development reviews - are often delivered in the home by a health visitor. The health visiting service provides continuity of care to families, working within localities where they can build on existing strong relationships with their early help teams, social care colleagues and primary care services, as well as the wider community.

The Suffolk service:

- Is available to all families with a child aged 0-5 years and all pregnant women currently resident in Suffolk
- Focuses on the 6 high impact areas: Parenthood and the early weeks, maternal mental health, breastfeeding, healthy weight, minor illnesses, and accidents, healthy 2-year-olds and getting ready for school
- Ensures safeguarding processes are robust and at the core of delivery
- Intervenes early and works with partner agencies as needed, working closely with Suffolk County Council Children and Young People's Early Help Services



- Identifies and supports vulnerable children and families, in a timely way, including those with SEND
- Follows up A&E attendances
- Supports families to have a healthy lifestyle
- Ensures care and referral pathways are in place and reviewed regularly

What are we changing:

- Increased Health Visitor capacity to strengthen clinical leadership, oversight and continuity of care.
- Removal of the Community Staff Nurse role, with delivery through a revised Health Visitor / Healthy Child Practitioner skill mix.
- All 5 mandated reviews remain under Health Visitor accountability, with delegated activity delivered under agreed supervision and governance arrangements.
- Close alignment with revised national guidance including greater continuity in the earliest contacts, with antenatal, new birth and 6-to-8-week reviews led by a named Health Visitor wherever possible

Mitigations:

- All 5 mandated health and development reviews will continue.
- Children and families should experience stronger Health Visitor oversight, clearer accountability and improved continuity in the first 1,001 days.
- Later reviews will continue to be supported through a mixed model, with flexibility in venue and delivery where appropriate to need.

Have your say:

Link to Survey: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/HV_CONS

Contact: childrenandfamilies@suffolk.gov.uk



Further Information:

[Healthy child programme - GOV.UK](#)

[Health Visiting service - Suffolk County Council](#)