



School Nursing

What is School Nursing:

- The School Nursing Service is for children and young people aged 5–19 (or up to 25 years for those with SEND). It is led by school nurses, who are also Specialist Community Public Health Nurses.
- Approximately 70% of referrals into the service relate to emotional wellbeing and mental health. The remainder of referrals are made up of physical health and sexual health concerns.
- There are four High Impact (priority) areas for school nursing:
 - Physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
 - Supporting children and young people with additional needs
 - Keeping children and young people safe and well
 - Supporting transitions
- In practice the programme focuses on
 - Prevention
 - Early intervention
 - Safeguarding
 - Health
- The School Immunisation Service is not part of the School Nursing Service and is delivered separately, so is not part of this consultation.

What are we changing:

Overall, it is proposed that the school nursing model would move from the current referral based, open access approach to a more targeted public health offer focused on prevention, safeguarding, school partnership working and the national high-impact areas. This approach will be led by identified needs, and the service will respond appropriately. This would allow specialist school nursing capacity to be used more consistently and effectively for public health and early intervention functions. Not every



school will require the same intensity of School Nursing input. Population data, and profiling will inform the priorities for each school.

There will continue to be a Universal, Targeted and Specialist pathway.

The following delivery model is proposed:

- Shift to a more targeted public health school nursing model focused on prevention, safeguarding, school partnership working and the national high-impact areas.
- Move to term-time-only (87% of frontline staff are already TTO) delivery and a digital-first access model, with structured triage, advice and signposting replacing most routine one-to-one allocation.
- All core universal school-facing delivery will be in mainstream primary and secondary schools, SEND schools and Pupil Referral Units with targeted support based on vulnerability, risk and need.
- Reduced capacity, and a more focused safeguarding and SEND contribution where there is direct involvement or identified need.

Mitigations:

- School Nursing will have a very clear offer on what it can and cannot do, which will make referrals into the service more meaningful.
- School Nursing will be working in partnership with system partners to identify the correct pathways and referral access points for young people that are not eligible for a school nursing offer.
- There will be a digital offer, which will be able to be accessed 24/7 and will provide information and signposting to relevant resources and services.
- All School Nurses will be supporting identified SEND needs as part of the service change. This will be part of a universal offer to those with an identified SEND need.
- Universal offer will include:



- School Drop ins (Secondary schools) - with frequency being determined by need
- Parent Drop ins (Primary schools)
- School liaison meetings
- Targeted offer will include:
 - New and emerging health concerns identified through questionnaires, schools' concerns, parental concerns
 - Group interventions
 - 1:1 brief intervention
- Mental Health in School Teams (MHSTs) are NHS-funded teams that work in schools and colleges to provide early mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people. National policy requires all schools to have access to Mental Health in School Teams by 28/29.
- Children and young people with an identified SEND need will move through the same Universal and Targeted system with reasonable adjustments to ensure equitable access and engagement

Have your say:

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

Contact: childrenandfamilies@suffolk.gov.uk

Further Information:

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

[School Nursing Service - Suffolk County Council](#)