

Early Years Review – Health and well-being working group

1. Background

The over-arching aim of publicly-funded community based services for children under 5 is to protect and promote the health and wellbeing and development of children. The early years of childhood development present the best early intervention opportunity across the public sector to improve outcomes for children in Barnet.

The Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and other key partners have made the early years of children's lives a priority area. Barnet council has undertaken an Early Years Review aimed at improving Early Years provision across Barnet. Moreover, the transfer of responsibility of various public health services to the London Borough of Barnet together with other health reforms provides a unique opportunity to consider the relationship between a number of core services and how they may be delivered and specified so as to get the best possible outcomes and value for money within the envelope of public funding that will in the future be available. The services which this relates to are the following:

- Health Visiting
- Family support and outreach work (children's centres)
- Family Nurse Partnership
- Community Midwifery
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Maternal mental health services

This document outlines the terms of reference and broad work plan for the group and has been informed by previous meetings where members committed to using the group to improve early years health and wellbeing provision.

2. Role of the group

The group will be made up of early years commissioners and providers from across Barnet. The group is accountable to the health and wellbeing board and is designed to deliver the recommended changes as part of the early years review and deliver the priority areas across the council and CCG.

Practically, the group will;

- A. Provide direction and help shape early years provision in line with the health and wellbeing plan priorities, Barnet's Children and Young People Plan and recommendations made through the early years review.
- B. Be involved in the co-design of future service models and pathways for early years services.

- C. Help secure organisational buy-in for early years integration. Develop our thinking on the outcomes and performance measures that together would contribute towards and achieve integrated service provision.
- D. Lead on developing the work streams detailed in section 5. Members of the group will be their organisations' representatives and will be accountable for ensuring the objectives of each organisation are given due consideration.

3. Objectives

The overarching objective of the group is to give strategic direction and support to how early years services will function in 2015-16 onwards, in particular the approach for closer working and opportunities for integration between health visitors, midwives, children's centres and other health services. This will include;

- A. Support improved relationships between various health and local authorities early years services across Barnet, focusing on improving the identification and support of vulnerable families in Barnet and to improve their children's health and wellbeing.
- B. Oversee the implementation of the agreed recommendations of the early years review and the Health visitor, school nursing and family nurse partnership review.
- C. Help develop a clear pathway and protocols to ensure that when risk factors during pregnancy are identified that GPs, midwives and health visitors can effectively trigger the appropriate, targeted support.
- D. Ensure that the Speech and Language Therapy service (SALT) provision develops stronger partnership working with the health visiting service as part of the integration of early years settings such as children's centres.
- E. Lead on the key four work streams to improve early years provision in Barnet;
 - Information sharing – data, consent and IT
 - Location and assets
 - Pathways, signposting and service development
 - Integration

4. Core Members

The members of the group will include a range of commissioners and providers of early years services across Barnet. The core membership will be as follows;

- Judy Mace - Head of Joint Children's Commissioning (CCG/LBB) - Chair
- Scott Johnston – Head of Midwifery (Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals)
- Ian Mckay – Head, Children's Young People and Women's Services (East London Foundation NHS Trust)
- Janet Lewis - (Central London Community healthcare NHS Trust)
- Maternity Lead (North Central London CCGs)
- Mai Buckley – Director of Maternity (Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust)
- Sam Raffell – Commissioning and Policy Advisor (LBB)
- Janet Diamond – Head of Service - Early Years (LBB)
- Nicky Brown – Commissioning Manager (NHS England)
- Laura Fabunmi - Public Health Consultant (Children Lead) (LBB)

Membership of the group may change moving forward.

5. Work streams

The following work streams have been proposed as key work streams to develop a more integrated, improved and collaborative early years' service in Barnet, meeting the objectives set out in the health and wellbeing strategy.

1. **Information sharing – data, consent and IT** - There is a need for information sharing to be improved across early years services to ensure all services can effectively support families, especially those who are most vulnerable.
2. **Location and assets** - The sub-group should act as a key link between local authority and health services to ensure that on-going reviews of assets is considered across health and the local authority, ensuring the best use of public sector assets.
3. **Pathways, signposting and service development** - A key objective of the health and wellbeing group is to develop clear pathways to ensure that when risk factors are identified during pregnancy by GPs, midwives and health visitors the right support is offered.
4. **Integration** - There is a clear recognition that closer integration of services between health and local authority led early year's services would help to improve outcomes. There is a specific focus on health visiting, the

commissioning of which will transfer to public health in October 2015. There are also opportunities for integration with the RFH acquisition of BCH hospital.

5. Timings

The group will meet on a bi-monthly basis over the next 12 months. After 12 months the group will complete a report for the health and well-being group outlining how the group has performed against its objectives and the next steps for the group.

6. Quorum

There would be at least five members of the working group present one of whom should be an LBB senior officer to chair the meeting

7. Governance

The work of this group will ultimately be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the group providing progress reports to the board on request.

8. Review date

These terms of reference will be reviewed on an annual basis should the life span of this group continue beyond a year

9. Date ratified

Terms of Reference will be ratified at the first meeting of the early years health and wellbeing group.