

CLCH Health Visiting and School Nursing in Wandsworth and Richmond

September 2021

In response to COVID-19, the universal health visiting and school nursing services changed their offer in line with NHS England and NHS Improvement guidance.

As you are aware, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we were required to reduce the risk of infection to staff and families by ceasing some of our services, including well baby drop-in clinics. It is our intention to restart those clinics once the guidance allows that to happen.

From 1 April 2021, we returned to offer face to face appointments for all new birth assessments and a mixed offer of virtual and face to face appointments for all our 6-8 week reviews and 1 and 2 year development reviews. However, due to current service capacity, some universal 6-8 week reviews will be seen late. These families are all contacted at 6-8 weeks by telephone to offer a welfare check. We are reviewing this position regularly.

Further details about our current service delivery:

- We have continued to offer support to vulnerable children and families throughout the pandemic. Care for all our vulnerable children and families has not changed, including our homeless health visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services. We have also continued to provide care face to face.
- We continue to deliver face to face appointment only clinics for children assessed as requiring a higher level of support.
- Breastfeeding support has continued to be provided and there have been no changes.
- Group sessions have been stepped down and these are being offered virtually where possible.
- Our school nursing services will be supporting the national 12-15 year COVID-19 vaccination programme starting towards the end of September, which will reduce the capacity within the service. The teams will prioritise support to vulnerable children and families during this time.
- The haemoglobinopathy team continue to provide their full service.
- The child healthy weight team continue to provide packages of care to our children and families virtually and we are reviewing this offer regularly.

We have a duty line for families and local partners to contact our service for advice and support.

Admin, duty health visitor and school nursing lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm. 0330 058 1679.

Public Health



Reimagining Health Visitor Clinical Model

Following an in-depth programme of work, CLCH has developed a new clinical model for the safe delivery of care to children and families across our geographical areas.

In completing this programme of work, we commissioned an external facilitator to undertake engagement with frontline staff and senior members of both the Trust and children's services to review the current delivery of public health services to children and families. This work made recommendations for change that will meet the mandated requirements, be financially viable, reduce caseload sizes, reduce demand on staff and redress work life balance in light of a London-wide shortage of health visitors.

The major change in this new model is that we are increasing our community staff nurses who will be supporting the health visitors in the delivery of universal antenatal contacts, multiple universal new birth visits and 6-8 week reviews.

An extensive training programme has been developed to support the staff nurses' transition into these newly delegated responsibilities.

To contact the service via the **children's services Single Point of Access**, please call **0330 058 1679**, email clcht.0-19wandsworthandrichmondadmin@nhs.net or visit our website: www.healthmatters.clch.nhs.uk.

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