




# Public Health Nursing Services 0-19 (25 SEND) Service overview December 2025

# 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services

Health & Social Care Act 2012 sets out Statutory responsibility for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0-19 years



The Local Authority is responsible for commissioning School Nursing and Health Visiting services, which is provided by the Public Health Nursing Service.



In North East Lincolnshire the service forms part of the wider Public Health team.

Public Health Nursing Services are registered and regulated by Care Quality Commission. Both Registered Manager and Nominated Individual are employed by the service.



Most recent inspection (June 2023) the service was rated as Good.



All clinicians are registered nurses who expected to comply with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) The Code of Conduct.



The Code presents the professional standards that nurses, midwives and nursing associates must uphold to be registered to practise in the UK.

# Regulation

# Public Health Nurses

Health Visitors and School Nurse are Specialist Community Public Health Nurses – Registered Nurses or Midwives who have gone on to undertake further degree level training to become a HV or SN

This specialist training puts HV's and SN's at the forefront to assess and identify need before further issues arise due to the Universal reach and wide acceptance of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

Supported by skill mix team – consists of Public Health Nurses, Community Health Practitioners and screening practitioners

# What Is Public Health Nursing?

PHNs work in schools, homes, clinics, and community settings, targeting underserved or at-risk groups

**Health Visitors** provide the Universal Healthy Child Programme 0-5 years, undertaking home visits, developmental reviews and identifying need— such as developmental concerns/SEND issues/parental mental health/safeguarding concerns (*approx. 5000 children*)

**School nurses** support children and young people aged 5–19, focusing on emotional wellbeing, risk-taking behaviours, and safeguarding. They are embedded in educational settings, enabling early identification of issues such as bullying, mental health concerns, and unmet health needs (*5-18 year old population 27,397 ONS 2024*)

# First 1001 Days

The "First 1001 Days" refers to the critical period from conception to a child's second birthday—a window of opportunity that profoundly shapes lifelong health, development, and wellbeing.

Why the First 1001 Days Matter

This period is foundational because:

- Brain development is at its most rapid
- Attachment and bonding during this time influence emotional regulation, resilience, and mental health.
- Nutrition, safety, and stimulation directly affect physical growth and cognitive outcomes.
- Adverse experiences (e.g., neglect, poverty, parental mental illness) can have long-term negative effects on health and learning.

# Role of the Health Visiting Service

North East  
Lincolnshire  
Council's  
**Health  
Visiting  
Service**

**ARE YOU A  
PARENT OR CARER**  
of children aged 0 - 5

## Advice when you need it most.

We're on hand to offer  
confidential advice from  
professionals, when you need  
it most. We can help with lots  
of common issues like:

Toileting, child health,  
feeding, sleep, behaviour  
and more.



Message us for confidential advice from a professional health visitor

**[HealthVisitingAdvice@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:HealthVisitingAdvice@nelincs.gov.uk)**

For any breastfeeding advice and support' you can also  
contact our Infant Feeding Peer Support Team on **01472 325000**  
or [nelinfantfeedingteam@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:nelinfantfeedingteam@nelincs.gov.uk)



Help parents, carers or guardians develop and sustain a strong bond with children.

Support parents, carers or guardians in keeping children healthy and safe and reaching their full potential.

Protect children from serious disease, through screening and immunisation.

Reduce childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating and physical activity.

Promote oral health.

Support resilience and positive maternal and family mental health.

Identify health and wellbeing issues early, so support and early interventions can be provided in a timely manner

Make sure children are prepared for and supported in all childcare, early years and education settings and are especially supported to be 'ready to learn at 2 and ready for school by 5'

Antenatal Contact

New Baby Review (10-14 days)

6 to 8 week review

10 to 12 month development assessment

2 to 2 ½ year developmental assessment

# Healthy Child Programme 0-5

## Mandated contacts

**Transition to parenthood and  
the early weeks:**

**Maternal and infant  
mental health:**

**Breastfeeding  
(initiation and  
duration):**

**Healthy weight and  
healthy nutrition**

**Improving Health  
Literacy, Managing  
Minor Illnesses  
and Reducing  
Accidents:**

**Health, wellbeing  
and Good Level of  
Development**

**Supporting High Impact Area**

# Good Level of Development

DHSE mandate to increase number of children achieving good level of development at age 5 in EYFS assessment

75% of children by 2028 – an increase of almost 10%

2-2.5 year review is essential to meet this requirement, enables early recognition of issues and timely intervention and targeted support

Current uptake is 98.6%% (Q2)

# Role of the School Nursing Service

## North East Lincolnshire Council CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROVISION



**School  
Nursing  
Service**



Tel: 01472 323660

Email: [schoolnursingadvice@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:schoolnursingadvice@nelincs.gov.uk)

**Familiesfirst**  
North East Lincolnshire  
Supporting children, young people & families

**TOGETHER  
FOR ALL  
PLEDGE**

**NORTH  
EAST  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
COUNCIL**  
[www.nelincs.gov.uk](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk)

Screening of Vision in Reception

National Child Measurement Programme Reception and Year 6

A&E follow up

Support and liaison between Health services and Schools

Information Advice and Guidance

Extended offer referral to Dental support services

School readiness and engagement

Early intervention and prevention

**Healthy Child Programme 5-16 years  
Led by the School Nursing Service**

Support School and engagement attendance

Support liaison between School and health services

Critical Incident response to school/settings

Sexual health clinics

Text service

# School Nursing Service Additional service offer

Supporting resilience and wellbeing,

Improving health behaviours and reducing risk taking,

Supporting healthy lifestyles,

Supporting vulnerable young people and improving health inequalities,

Supporting complex and additional health and wellbeing needs,

Promoting self-care and improving health literacy

# Supporting High Impact Area

# Safeguarding Team Functions

Contribute to wider  
Safeguarding Children  
Partnership working  
arrangements

Practitioner support with  
complex cases, particularly  
those with a high threshold  
of need, whilst undertaking  
any escalation of cases  
where appropriate

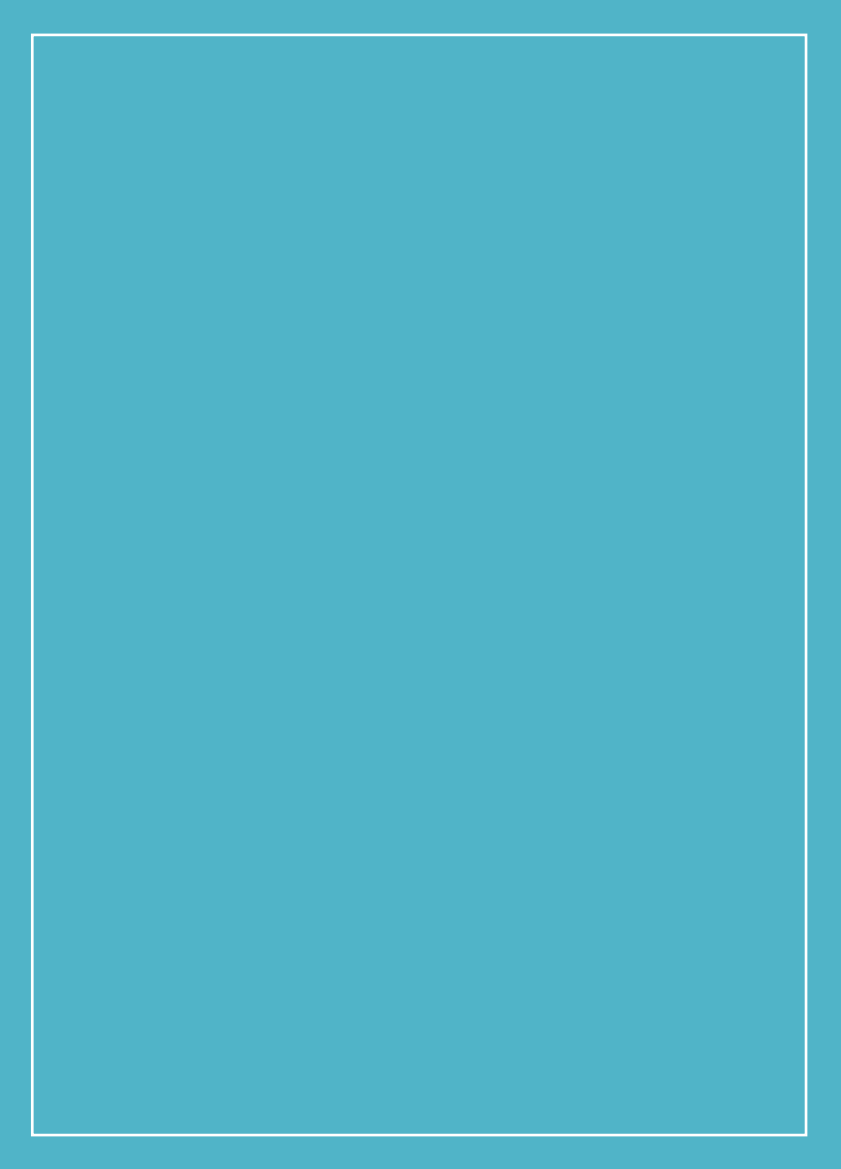
Provide Public Health  
Nursing information to legal  
requests, police/solicitor  
access to records, court  
statements, and rapid  
reviews

Deliver safeguarding  
supervision to practitioners  
within Public Health  
Nursing in line with Care  
Quality Commission  
standards

# PHN and Marmot – a focus on Prevention

Public Health Nursing focuses on improving health outcomes at the community level by:

- Giving every child the best start in life - PHNs provide maternal and child health services, immunisations, and parenting support.
- Enable all children, young people, and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives- delivering health education and life skills programs in schools and communities.
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all – assessment of need, improving health literacy and signposting to further support
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities – advocating for safe housing, food security and access to services
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention - PHNs lead screening programs, chronic disease management, and vaccination campaigns.



By strong advocacy and working with disadvantaged and marginalised communities PHN's also work to support and embody these additional Marmot principles:

Tackle racism, discrimination, and their outcomes

Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

Create fair employment and good work for all

# Public Health Nursing Strategy

## Background:

- Decline in HV & SN numbers over last few years
- Persistent vacancies and issues with recruitment
- Increasing complexity of need means increased safeguarding demands and support required at Family Help
- Locally high rates of premature births (2<sup>nd</sup> highest in England) means increased number of children requiring additional support, global developmental delay and SEN

# Strategy (continued)

Sought out external and independent consultant but didn't meet the specific requirements for review

Using pre-existing skill & knowledge across Public Health developed Transformation Alliance to identify challenges and set a clear and sustainable direction for the future to examine:

- Workforce structure/exploring different ways of working
- Supporting staff wellbeing
- Recruitment
- Financial projections
- Review role profiles
- Collaboration and integration
- Governance
- Quality and Performance

# Performance and Data

Public Health Nursing data and reporting involves collecting and analysing information on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, primarily through:

The Community Services Dataset (CSDS).

National Child Measurement Programme and Vision screening Programme

National HV returns

Local reporting with exception reporting where appropriate

This data is then used to monitor trends, assess the effectiveness of the service, and identify areas for improvement