

Scrutiny Commission 14 July 2015
Cabinet Portfolio Briefings: Children's Services

1. Synergies between Children and Young People's services and Health and Wellbeing

The Marmot Review 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010)' set out the case for focusing investment on early years. The review advocates a life-course approach to tackling health inequalities, demonstrating that giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities. The reasons for this include:

- Early childhood is the most important phase for overall development throughout the lifespan.
- Brain and biological development during the first years of life is highly influenced by an infant's environment.
- Early experiences determine health, education and economic participation for the rest of life.

2. Achievements and current activities

Public Health Children Schools and Families Group ensured that Public Health support to CSF early years and young people progressed effectively. The Consultant in Public Health and the Public Health Principal have designed and supported the implementation of a number of public health initiatives. They have supported the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group GP clinical director and workstream focusing on children, providing expert input to the re-procurement of the Community Health services and to the transfer of health visiting from NHS England. Specific initiatives include

- A review of the National Child Measurement Programme, one of the Public Health statutory services and delivered by School Nurses, provided the information to establish improved KPIs and to develop a robust specification for re-procurement of the service.
- A review of the early years' agenda which led to development of best practice in Children's Centres (Early Years Pathways, Mental Health Post). Pathway development is well underway to ensure a robust pathway and good communication between professionals who deal with young children—maternity, health visitors, children's centres and GPs, with a link to school nurses.
- A review of the Health Visiting service has informed ongoing work to ensure an effective transfer of health visiting service from NHS England to LBM Public Health in October 2015.
- Development of Healthy School programmes in two school clusters in the more deprived east of Merton, including work with Dig Merton to introduce food growing to children.
- Alive N Kicking – programme for children and their families, identified through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)
- Reviews of CAMHS and Looked After children are ongoing

- School nursing and health visiting services are within the community health services being procured in partnership with Merton CCG for April 2016.
- Sexual Health services including the GettingItOn service targeted at young people

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-18

This portfolio specifically links to theme one of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Theme 1 Best start in life – early years development and strong educational achievement.

A summary page of all five themes with key outcomes is included in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth.htm>.