

Kent School Health Service

Special school partnership agreement



School name:

District:

Date:

Information at a glance

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Context

KCHFT was commissioned from 1 April 2017 to provide Primary and Secondary School Health Services (five to 19 years). The service includes children in mainstream school, special school, alternate curriculum units or home educated.

Three key themes strongly influenced the new service design:

1. The School Health Service and the range of services offered needs to be more visible in schools and the community. This could be through activities that raise awareness of the range of services provided, as well as clarity regarding the role of the school (public health) nurse.
2. Services need to be more accessible for children, young people, parents/guardians and schools. In particular, this applies to communication and improved dialogue.
3. There needs to be a willingness to work together with stakeholders on further developing services in schools, from our school health staff and school staff, to parents, young people and primary care services. There is a real opportunity to co-create sustainable, innovative school health services based on the needs of the local population.

The School Health Service

The School Health Service is a multi-skilled team with different practitioners. This includes:

- public health assistants,
- assistant practitioners,
- school staff nurses,
- specialist community public health nurses
- and a whole school approach team who focus on delivering a high quality, responsive, public health service to the whole school community.

The School Health Service is available 8am to 6pm, five days a week, 52 weeks a year (excluding public holidays).

Our dedicated team of administrators handle all referrals and telephone calls into the service. This team is known as our Central Administration Team (CAT). The referrals are triaged by qualified clinicians who assess the level of need and assign to a practitioner for intervention or support as required.

family.kentcht.nhs.uk/

Referrals can be made directly by parents or carers, young people themselves or by partner agencies, using the online referral form which can be accessed via the link below:

www.kentcht.nhs.uk/forms/school-health-service-referral-form/

Contact number: 0300 123 5205

Scope of the School Health Service

Our teams work hard to improve the general health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families to support children to get the best start in life.

The school health teams are led by qualified school nurses, with specialist training in public health. They are supported by school staff nurses, assistant practitioners, public health assistants and an administration team. We also have a whole school approach team working in partnership to promote health and wellbeing at a whole a school level.

As a public sector organisation delivering a contract commissioned by NHS England we provide assurance under contract to NHSE that our staff are appropriately trained, qualified and checked (DBS). It is not appropriate for our staff to carry or present their certificates to a third party.

Secure emails: School health colleagues use NHS.net email addresses which means emails are encrypted when sent. However, for the information to remain secure, it needs to be sent to a secure email address. NHS.net have offered a solution to enable those without secure emails (such as schools and parents) to securely receive confidential information. To read emails, schools will need to create an Egress account which is free to use. For further information on Egress visit family.kentcht.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/06/Accessing-encrypted-emails-guide.pdf



This partnership agreement will make sure that children and young people in schools receive the best possible outcomes as outlined in the five to 19 Healthy Child Programme (Department of Health, 2009).

The School Health Service is responsible for the following:

- Share data (individual and community level) to support planning and service delivery in accordance with GDPR, for example school health profiles.
- The School Health Service will make sure all staff have up-to-date enhanced DBS clearance. All Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust staff have enhanced child and adult DBS clearance. All staff are issued with a photo ID badge which will be worn at all times (see appendix 1).
- Liaise with an identified member of school staff to plan the roll out of the health needs assessment questionnaires where appropriate for reception, year six, 10 and 12 pupils using The Lancaster Model (TLM) www.thelancastermodel.co.uk/
- Working within professional and ethical guidelines and be accountable for their practice, in accordance with KCHFT policies (Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and NMC guidance).
- Be visible, through regular visits from School Health Team (as agreed at the beginning of the school year).
- Be accessible through improved communication via face-to-face, on-line presence and a centralised contact system.
- Coordinate with a named member of school staff to plan all School Health Service activities, including visits during the school term.
- Provide end of year activity reports to schools and highlight relevant information (where school has taken part in The Lancaster Model).
- Support the school to deliver health promotion sessions based on needs of the

school using the School Health profile (as agreed at the beginning of the academic year).

- The School Health Service will support schools to engage with the Kent resilience toolkit, promoting resilience across the whole school community and supporting staff to feel confident in having resilience-based conversations.
- The School Health Service has a statutory responsibility to be involved with any child or young person, who is subject to a safeguarding plan, where a referral has been received into the service for an unmet health need. We will work in partnership with the school or referring agency to meet the needs of the child or young person and will share information appropriately.

Additional activities by prior agreement:

- Deliver health needs awareness sessions to school staff on anaphylaxis, asthma and epilepsy (these sessions are offered on-line). We also offer a continence webinar to raise awareness of steps schools can take to support children experiencing difficulties with day or night time wetting.
- Attend parent evenings and school assemblies when appropriate, agreed in advance. It is the responsibility of the school to request School Health Service attendance at any event and we would recommend giving at least a term's notice.

The School is responsible for the following:

- Identify a named member of staff who will liaise with the School Health Service.
- Share data at an individual and community level to support planning and service delivery in accordance with GDPR.
- Actively promote the completion of health needs assessment questionnaires in reception (by parents) and where appropriate in year six, 10 and 12 (by pupils) and work in partnership with the School Health Service named lead to help increase the uptake of this programme.
- Provide a confidential space for one-to-one consultations taking place at school, which is a safe environment for lone working purposes and accessible for students.
- A person of appropriate seniority should be present at all individual health care planning meetings and is responsible for sharing information with other senior staff as appropriate.
- Send appropriate staff to health needs training as advised by named school nurse.
- Provision of IT equipment to be set up and ready to use for any training sessions/ events and to complete The Lancaster Model.
- Request for a School Health Service representative to attend new parents evening or transition events to be negotiated at least half a term in advance. If this level of notice is not given, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide a member of staff to attend.
- Each school will register on the Kent resilience hub website. Schools will engage with the Kent resilience toolkit and promote a culture of resilience within their school community.
- Where a child has an identified school health need and there is a safeguarding concern relating directly to this health need, the school will share relevant information with the School Health Service.

School Health Service model

The School Health Service model has three levels of provision; universal reach, personalised response and specialist support with safeguarding children and young people as a key component running throughout the model. The model is built on the principles of proportionate universalism, providing a service that is universally accessible to all, however, offers additional help for those who need it most. The model represents a continuum of need for most children and young people



Figure 4: A new model for School Nursing in England

Visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/commissioning-of-public-health-services-for-children/health-visiting-and-school-nursing-service-delivery-model to find out more information on the details of a modernised health visiting and school nursing service delivery model that is 'universal in reach – personalised in response'.

The NHS Long Term Plan sets out the priorities for expanding children and young people's mental health services. To deliver these priorities, Kent and Medway has a local transformation plan in place. For more information visit the Local Transformation Plan 2022 for children, young people, and young adults' emotional wellbeing and mental health - www.kmhealthandcare.uk/transformation-projects/children-young-people-and-young-adults-emotional-wellbeing-and-mental-health

School specific sessions

- Targeted interventions can be completed for a range of health needs including emotional wellbeing and referral on to specialist services where necessary.
- Packages of care (for example, behaviour management, daytime and night time wetting and soiling, emotional health and wellbeing including anxiety, stress, self-harm and anger management, healthy weight, sexual health, drug and alcohol misuse) are offered where identified to be appropriate through assessment.
- The School Health Service can support the development and review of healthcare plans for children who are open to our service with long or short-term conditions and education, health and care (EHC) plans as required.
- Assessments will be offered at reception, and years six, 10 and 12 using The Lancaster Model (TLM) which is an early identification and preventative model to assess strengths, needs and risks. The purpose of The Lancaster Model is to provide the opportunity to discuss concerns and aspirations; assess physical health, growth and development; assess any mental or emotional issues; and identify any needs that require progressive (targeted) interventions.

The questionnaires have been formulated to provide early intervention alerts by using research, government targets and public health priorities to enable the identification of individual pupils who may require a targeted intervention, support or information. For more information please visit:

www.thelancastermodel.co.uk

- General health awareness sessions are available on-line to support school staff to manage children/young people with long term health needs such as anaphylaxis, epilepsy and asthma.
- The School Health Service can offer attendance at transition events for parents of new entrant reception children to highlight key public health issues for the child and their families.

- ChatHealth – The School Health Service offer young people a confidential text messaging service (07520 618850). It is available all year-round Monday to Friday. An 'out of hours' response provides further contact information if young people make a contact outside of the service being open.

Partner services

Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CYPMHS) offer mental health assessments, interventions and treatment for people aged 0-18 years in Kent and 0-19 years in Medway, as well as diagnostic assessments for Neurodevelopmental conditions such as Autism or ADHD.

[Children & Young People's Mental Health Service \(CYPMHS\) - Kent and Medway Mental Health NHS Trust](#)

The School-aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) offers:

- childhood flu vaccination (nasal spray) to all primary age children.
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination. All girls and boys aged 12 to 13 are offered HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination. The vaccine protects against HPV-related cancers in boys and girls, such as head and neck cancers, anal and genital cancers.

- Meningococcal disease strains A, C, W, Y (MenACWY) is offered to young people in years nine and 10.
- Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio (Td/IPV) offered at the same time as MenACWY in years nine and 10.

Catch up clinics are also provided for any child or young person up to 19 years who are not up to date with their routine childhood immunisations

Contact the Immunisation Service

Phone: 0300 123 5205

Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net

Website: family.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms



Contact details

School Health Team

Phone: 0300 123 5205

Email: kentchft.kentschoolhealth@nhs.net

Whole School Approach

Email: kentchft.wholeschoolhealth@nhs.net

Kent School Health website: family.kentcht.nhs.uk/

Health For Teens website: www.healthforteens.co.uk/

Amber Bond	Head of Service, Kent School Health	amberbond@nhs.net	07891 194509
Allison Leigh	Clinical Lead for School Nursing	allison.leigh@nhs.net	07557 663368
Michele Ellis	Screening Lead for School Nursing	m.ellis2@nhs.net	07391 860956
Jean Ravenna	Transformation Manager	jeanravenna@nhs.net	07795 256891
Zoe Fish	Whole School Health Lead	Zoe.fish@nhs.net	07825 230949
Christine Beer	School Nurse Education Lead	chrisbeer@nhs.net	07946 171122
TBC	District Manager – East Kent		
Gemma McCairn	District Manager – South Kent	g.mccairn@nhs.net	07392 863921
Beth Epps	District Manager – North Kent	bethepps@nhs.net	07557 139388
Rachel Hawkett	District Manager – West Kent	rachel.hawkett@nhs.net	07751 731623

Appendix 1

Prevention, Inequalities and Children's Services Directorate

Trinity House
110-120 Upper Pemberton
Eureka Park
Ashford
Kent
TN25 4AZ

Web: www.kentcht.nhs.uk

November 2025

Dear Head teacher

Disclosure & Barring Service Checks for Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust Staff visiting schools and other educational setting

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) places a high value on our partnership with schools and colleges. We hope that the clarification with regard to KCHFT staff member's DBS certification will provide confidence in the systems that we have in place, to ensure safety, compliance with statutory obligations and promote wellbeing.

KCHFT position statement with regard to its staff member's DBS certification.

The Trust remains responsible for all of its staff members whilst undertaking any independent, unsupervised regulated activity in schools, colleges or other educational settings. KCHFT remains the 'employer' (or in DBS terms the personnel provider) with responsibility for the management of the DBS process.

The Trust has a formal DBS checking procedure in place which includes obtaining a DBS Enhanced Disclosure with Child and Adult Barred List (List 99) check. This includes all identity checks in line with the DBS Code of Practice.

This letter serves to confirm that a core criminal record check, including a check of the children's barred list, has been completed and that all individuals working with yourselves on behalf of the Trust have been judged to be suitable to work with children. This, in combination with our recruitment process and occupational health screening, ensures the Trust complies with all requirements of the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 guidance which states:

Section 306. For visitors who are there in a professional capacity schools and colleges should check ID and be assured that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check (or the visitor's employers have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks. Schools and colleges should not ask to see the certificate in these circumstances).

(Keeping children safe in education, section 306, pg 83 - Publications - GOV.UK [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#))

KCHFT therefore does not support any additional scrutiny of the DBS certificates by a receiving organisation, as this would undermine the confidentiality of the systems already put in place by KCHFT and this letter provides assurance as per section 306.

KCHFT actions to ensure compliance in line with the National Legislation and Guidance

1. Any DBS Enhanced Disclosure which has anything recorded is scrutinised by qualified persons within the Trust. These persons have the obligation to ensure that all staff employed by the Trust fully meet the DBS requirements for the position they hold. As for all staff members, who's role requires them to have unsupervised regular access to children and young people, the Trust confirms that an Enhanced DBS check has been completed, references have been obtained, the employee has received medical clearance and is eligible to work in the United Kingdom of Great Britain.
2. Any staff member who has a career break for a term or longer is required to complete a new DBS Enhanced Disclosure certificate and a Childcare Disqualification declaration before they are able to undertake any activity that would entail unsupervised access to children and young people.
3. The Trust maintains comprehensive records of all its staff members. These include the DBS certificate numbers and issue dates. This information is available for disclosure to the appropriate authorities, in accordance with the law.
4. A KCHFT staff member is not obliged to show or make a copy of their DBS certificate as this would compromise the confidentiality of the system. All KCHFT staff members are issued with an ID card containing a photograph and this will assist organisations with internal verification procedures.
5. The Department for Education has published statutory guidance on the application to schools of the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 and related obligations under the Childcare Act 2006. KCHFT has due regard to this statutory guidance when carrying out its duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. KCHFT confirms that we act in accordance with these regulations.

Yours sincerely



Clive Tracey
Director of Prevention and Children Services

