

Report Education Health Advisor

Background

This post was developed 8 years ago at the request of the RMBC to ensure the safe inclusion of children with a significant disability, complex health need into school. Aim to assist schools in delivering their responsibilities to pupils with medical needs in school. This post supports outcomes for children in respect of Every Child Matters, inclusion and the Disability Discrimination Act.

The post holder was initially seconded from Rotherham PCT and is now employed by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT). The LA is charged £42,298 per annum which equates to pay costs only.

Main responsibilities

- 1) To gather information from parents, carers, health professionals and others in relation to an individual child's needs and management to assist the development of a health plan in school.
This is additional to core delivery in that it is the head teacher's responsibility to liaise with the same cohort of people gathering information to formulate clear guidance to school personnel for the individual management and care of a child whilst in a school setting. It would be the role of a school nurse or other health professional e.g. GP, Paediatrician to provide advice/information to school heads with parental consent where appropriate.
- 2) To assist schools giving advice on risk providing clear direction in the management of children and young people where health, medical, personal care and disability issues may impede either access to or participation in service activities.
This is additional to core service.
- 3) To formulate individual health care plans for school.
This is additional to core services where the role of a health professional would be to supplement information which would be gathered by the head teacher from parents, carers, and others in order to formulate a child's individual health care plan in school.
- 4) To co-ordinate and facilitate a training programme for school staff to enable them to meet the needs of a child with significant disability or medical need in school.
This is additional to core service whereby "the nurse or doctor may be able to advise on training for school staff".
- 5) Review the health care plan in school yearly or as needed
This is additional to core services as guidance clearly states that school staff should agree with parents how often they should jointly review the plan. Guidance also recommends that school staff should consult with individual health professionals when they are reviewing health plans for children in their care in a school setting. Therefore the emphasis is on the head teacher to co-ordinate and facilitate the review of health plan.
- 6) Yearly training updates for staff in line with the health review and updated plan in school.

Size of caseload-

150 training sessions are contracted

The caseload is in excess of 300 and growing

Risk associated with discontinuation of service provision-

- Significant increase in risk with children and young people in school without the support of appropriately, trained, competent and confident staff.
- Children unable to access school provision in line with local/national inclusion policies.
- Potential breaches of the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Potential for an increase in complaints generated by families.

Consequences of discontinuing the service-

- There will be a need for heads of schools to revert back to a co-ordination liaison, plan construction role.
- Advice from relevant professionals will need to be sought by heads or designated school personnel to provide additional information to that gathered from parents and carers.
- Schools will need to input risk assessments, environmental, school, activity, transport etc.
- Schools will need to hold their own data bases regarding plans, trained staff, reviews etc
- Schools will need to source training (which may lead to inconsistency if done by several parties).
- LA to inform parents of the withdrawal of this service provision and inform them of the process/mechanisms for future support.
- Transport/escort training to be sourced by transport through their devolved budget.

We would value your feedback regarding whether your school uses this service and its value for your students.

Please complete the short questionnaire below and return by e-mail by 13 May 2011.

Julie Devine, Complex Health Needs Team 17.3.11 (Julie/Management/Health Education/Report Health Education Advisor /RS/17.3.11)

FEEDBACK

Does your school use the services of the Education Health Advisor?

YES/NO

What are the benefits for the school/young person?

What arrangements does the school have in place to replace the work carried out by the Education Health Advisor Education Health Advisor?

Name of School (Optional).....