

Question from Youth Cabinet – Minute No. 70 13th March, 2014

*'Many young people don't know who their school nurse is, the full range of help and support they provide or how to contact them. We have found that increasingly young people are experiencing mental health issues which may result in self harm or other related health issues and don't know where to go for help or support. Can School Nurses have more of a presence in schools and be accessible to **all** young people; with clear information publicised about the services they provide?'*

Within the new School Nursing Specification (that is intended to be implemented from the 1st July 2014) the School Nursing Service will be expected to promote their service fully and to provide a number of ways in which young people within Rotherham can contact them for support (using texting and other social media methods). School nurses have always offered a presence in schools however this has to be in agreement with the school senior management team. The School Nursing service has changed over recent years and does focus predominantly on those who have identified health issues and concerns. They do provide some elements of universal support for everyone e.g. vaccinations and screening programmes like the National Child Measuring Programme. While it is likely that most young people will not know their school nurse we want to ensure that the service offers support to all those who feel they need it. It is expected the school nursing service will publicise their service in the future to ensure accessibility.

Anna Clack is meeting with the Youth Cabinet on the 17th of April at their training day to discuss this fully and answer any further questions.