

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Health Select Commission
2.	Date:	22 January 2015
3.	Title:	Special Schools Nursing Service
4.	Directorate:	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

5. Summary

The report provides Members with an overview of the Special Schools Nursing Service in Rotherham which provides holistic nursing care for children and young people with additional health needs, enabling them to access education.

6. Recommendation

That Members:

- **Note the contents of the report and the services provided for children and young people with specific health needs.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Health Select Commission identified information on the Special Schools Nursing Service as part of its work programme for 2014-15. This follows up a presentation about the revised specification for the mainstream School Nursing Service. Appendix 1 provides an overview of the current service in Rotherham and illustrates the differences and commonalities with the mainstream service. The report covers the following areas:

- Team composition and location
- Role of the Special School Nurse
- Training
- Safeguarding
- Education and health care plans

8. Finance

No direct financial implications from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The caseload of the team and the health needs of the children and young people accessing the service will vary over time as different cohorts enter and leave education.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Individual education and health care plans aim to maximize the child's educational experience and to provide adequate preparation for responses to urgent situations.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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Appendix 1

Report for Health Select Commission

Special School Nursing Service

The special school nursing service is jointly commissioned by Public Health which is now part of RMBC. The health education element is commissioned separately and funded by schools. Special school nurses provide holistic and focused nursing care for children and young people, with additional health needs, in order that they may access education in school or early years setting.

Team Composition

Band 6 = 1.6WTE

Band 5 = 1.9

The team consists of a mixture of children's trained and learning disability trained nurses. This variety is essential in order to meet the needs of the children and young people with additional health needs.

The team currently service 6 schools:

- Abbey
- Hilltop
- Kelford
- Milton
- Newman
- Willows

In addition to these schools the team work with all other RMBC schools where children attend who have additional health needs requiring care plans. At present there are 50 of these which are active.

Role

The school nurse has a unique role in the provision of school health services for children with special health needs, including children with chronic illnesses and disabilities of various degrees of severity. These children are included in the regular school classroom setting. The school nurse will assess the student's health status, identify health problems that may create a barrier to educational progress, and develop a health care plan for management of the problems in the school setting. The school nurse ensures that the child's individual health care plan is developed and implemented with the participation of school and the main carers, to ensure the child's needs are met. The school nurse's participation in the health care plan development heightens the potential for achieving the goals of the plan, which are to maximize the

child's educational experience and to provide adequate preparation for responses to urgent situations.

Dialogue with subspecialists, and other staff, can add important information. The school nurse will provide safe and effective services or facilitate the performance of special health care procedures, such as tracheostomy care, suctioning, Epipen training and nasogastric tube feeding etc.

The team works with social care and contributes to effective planning for those children requiring a safeguarding or child in need plan. Health assessments and attendance at meetings are also completed for those children who are 'Looked After'. The team works collaboratively with other agencies and health professionals and will offer sign posting for parents to ensure the child's needs are met.

Service Provision differs from mainstream school nursing service and includes

- Completion of and updating care plans
- Contributing to medical assessments
- Home Visits to meet parents and child prior to attending school
- Contribute to complex health assessments
- Work collaboratively with parents and other health professionals
- Liaison with SEN panel to identify children with additional health needs earlier in order to provide early support.
- Contribute to safeguarding, child in need and looked after children plans.
- Attend open days and highlight the service.
- Advice and support schools in ensuring the child's needs are met safely whilst accessing the education setting

The team also provides services that mainstream school nursing provide including immunisations, drop in clinics, health assessments and assessment of growth.

Training delivered

- Monthly Epipen training for new staff, as well as yearly updates
- Gastrostomy training
- Suction training
- Tracheostomy care
- Adrenal insufficiency training
- Medication training

Once the training has been delivered the staffs are required to assess and sign off the named individual ensuring they are competent to deliver the task they have been trained for. Training is delivered to staff for the benefit of the child in the educational setting they attend. This could be in an early years setting, primary or secondary school.

Safeguarding Role

The team members must ensure they maintain their skills in managing safeguarding cases and are required to ensure their training is up to date. Individual supervision is given by a specialist nurse from the safeguarding team to support practitioners. Collaborative working with schools and colleagues in children services is the main route for identification of those children who are deemed to be vulnerable and need social care intervention and support. If a member of the special school nursing team identifies a vulnerable child who is deemed to be at risk, they will follow The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust safeguarding procedures.

If a child is identified as being sexually exploited against The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust safeguarding procedures would be followed as well as making contact with the children's advocate and appropriate agencies.

Future

With the advent of Education and Health Care Plans this team of nurses will be well placed to contribute and become involved with the formation of Rotherham's EHC plans. They will be able to contribute and support parents in ensuring the plan meets the needs of the child and family.

The AAP recommends and supports the continued strong partnership among school nurses, other school health personnel, and pediatricians. These partners should work together closely to promote the health of children and youth by facilitating the development of a comprehensive school health program, ensuring a medical home for each child,⁸ and integrating health, education, and social services for children at the community level.

Committee on School Health, 2001–2002