

Tools of the Trade

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1. Universal health profile for children starting secondary school.
 2. Tool to manage school nurse skill mix for an equitable service.

Identification of pupils with additional health needs in year 7

- We wanted to improve the health information we had about pupils coming into Year 7, so we could target school nurse health expertise and improve access to the service for those with greatest health need.
- We did not have the capacity to send out paper questionnaires, and past experience indicated that there was a poor response rate to these.



Identification of Children in Year 7 with Additional Health Needs

- In Devon, the local authority sends questionnaires to all parents / carers of children at the end of Year 6, prior to going into secondary school.
- This questionnaire includes some questions about the child's health and wellbeing.
- IT colleagues in the local authority devised a programme for schools to download. Relevant health 'fields' could be put into an individual report for each child and then securely emailed to the school nurse.
- Where a health need was identified, a health care plan was put in place.

In the three pilot schools, the following health issues (previously unknown to the school nurse) were noted:

- Haemophilia
- Severe asthma, mild-moderate asthma (eight children)
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Migraines
- Achilles tendonitis
- Weak bladder
- Hearing impairment
- Epilepsy
- Coeliac disease
- Repeated otitis media
- Hearing aids fitted
- Allergy to cherries
- Use of epi-pens (three children)

Emotional / developmental issues noted in eight children

- Recently bereaved
- Young carer with complex home issues
- Very low self esteem
- Anxiety
- Aggression
- Language difficulties
- Autistic spectrum Disorder
- Dyspraxia.

- Health reports were compiled for all children
- Parents (or carers) and children were contacted and health care plans put in place. These conversations with parents were an opportunity to highlight the school nursing service and times of drop-ins, and bring records up to date.
- The reports also gave the most recent contact details for the family and some demographic information, eg how many parents lived at separate addresses.

Tool to manage school nurse skill mix for an equitable service.

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see spreadsheet