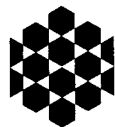


From the Acting Chief Medical Officer & the Chief Nursing Officer
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell & Mr Martin Bradley



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

To:

All General Practitioners (*for circulation to practice staff*)
Chief Executives of HSS Trusts (*for circulation to all health professionals involved in the delivery of services to children and child health system information staff*)
Chief Executives of HSS Boards
Medical Directors of HSS Trusts
Directors of Nursing HSS Trusts
Directors of Public Health HSS Boards
Directors of Nursing/Chief Nurse HSS Boards
AHP HSS Board Commissioning Officers
Chief Executive of NIMDTA
Professor R J Hay, Head School of Medicine & Dentistry, QUB
Professor Hugh McKenna, Dean of Life & Health Science, UU
(*for distribution to heads of schools for nursing and AHPs*)
Chief Executive of Beeches Management Centre (*for distribution to Training Consultants*)
Mary Hanratty, Head of Nursing & Midwifery Education, Beeches Management Centre
Marie Nesbitt, Director of Educare
Professor Jean Orr, Head of School, Nursing & Midwifery, QUB

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0709
& 028 9052 0562
Fax: 028 9052 0574
Email: elizabeth.mitchell@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Email: martin.bradley@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)33-06
Date: 23 August 2006

Dear Colleague,

GUIDANCE AND PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF: HEALTH FOR ALL CHILDREN

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the publication of the document *Guidance and Principles for Professional Staff : Health for all Children*. The document has been developed to support health professionals involved in the delivery of Health for All Children (Hall 4). The fourth edition of Health for all Children by Hall and Elliman set out proposals for preventive health care, health promotion and an effective community-based response to the needs of families, children and young people. It reflects the current evidence and is in line with recommendations from the National Screening Committee. The then Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer in a letter, HSS (MD), 15/04, issued on 15 April 2004, commended the child health programme to all Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts.

The guidance, which will be available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/governance/governance-guidance, sets out a clear core programme of child health contacts that every family can expect wherever they live in Northern Ireland. Implementation of the recommendations of Hall 4 allows services to be more flexible and responsive and provides an opportunity to maximise the effective use of the skills and expertise of the range of professionals who provide services across child health promotion, prevention and care.



The core programme has been updated to reflect National guidelines developed or amended since HSS (MD)15/04. Commissioners and providers should work collaboratively to ensure that these guidelines continue to be updated and developed as new strategies (Eg 'Fit Futures: Focus on Food, Activity and Young People', Dec 2005), evidence and guidelines emerge to inform practice.

Commissioners/Trusts should note that this guidance focuses specifically on the core elements of Hall 4. They should also ensure that governance arrangements are in place to monitor practice and be assured of the efficient and effective delivery of this core programme.

It seeks to support and inform practice of health professionals, including newly appointed professional staff and students and has implications for the education and training of a wide range of professionals involved in the care of children. Education Providers, Commissioners and Trusts should ensure that all education programmes are amended to ensure that the needs of students and practitioners are met in relation to preparation for the delivery of an effective service.

To support the delivery and monitoring of Health for All Children, a new PCHR is being finalised and should be available from 1 January 2007. Work is ongoing to address the software changes to the Child Health System to accommodate the recording of data related to the new programme.

This guidance is commended to you and should be used as an opportunity to review existing models and continue to develop innovative public health models which improve health, reduce inequalities, facilitate accessibility and are responsive to need at local level, to meet the needs of children, families and communities within the philosophy and ethos of Health for all Children.

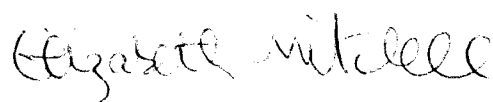
If you would like further information on this guidance please contact either:

Dr Margaret Boyle
Senior Medical Adviser
DHSSPS
C3.12 Castle Buildings
Stormont, Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Telephone: (028) 9052 0713
Email: margaret.boyle2@dhsspsni.gov.uk

or

Mrs Angela McLernon
Nursing & Midwifery
DHSSPS
C4.22 Castle Buildings
Stormont, Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Telephone: (028) 9052 0794
Email: angela.mclernon@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



DR ELIZABETH MITCHELL
Acting Chief Medical Officer



MR MARTIN BRADLEY
Chief Nursing Officer

cc: Chief Executive of RQIA
Mr Leslie Frew, DHSSPS
Andrew Hamilton, DHSSPS
Mr Paul Martin, Chief Inspector SSI
Mrs Nuala McArdle, AHP Officer DHSSPS
Royal College of Paediatrics
Royal College of GPs
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Midwives
Community Practitioners and Health Visiting Association
Directors of Social Services HSS Boards and Trusts
Northern Ireland Practice Education Council
Dr Vinod Tohani (RUAG)
British Medical Association (NI)
Regional Community Nurse Managers Group
Mr M O'Haire, NIMATS
Ms Caryl Sibbett, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, QUB
Members of Regional Health for All Children Group