

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**

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**HSS(MD)37-06**

To: Ms Irene Murphy, Department of Education  
(For onward distribution to Principals of all Primary  
and Secondary Schools in Northern Ireland)

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

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD)37-06  
Date: 31 August 2006

Dear Colleague,

## **Regional Child Health Surveillance Programme: Health for all Children (Hall 4)**

The purpose of this communication is to advise you of ongoing amendments and changes to the Regional Child Health Surveillance Programme which is offered to all pre-school and school age children. Elements of this are already provided within the school setting and some changes will take place in relation to aspects of this.

In 1988 the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health established a joint working party to review existing services<sup>1</sup> to children and families. In the first edition of Health for All Children the emphasis then was on development of partnerships between parents, children and health professionals.

The fourth edition of Health for All Children (Hall 4)<sup>2</sup> supports the gradual shift from a highly medical model of screening, to one with a greater emphasis on health promotion, primary prevention and active intervention for children at risk, providing greater opportunities for teachers, children, young people and their families and school health staff, to work in partnership to promote and improve health and wellbeing.

Hall 4 provides an evidence-based framework to assess, monitor and support children's health and development throughout childhood and adolescence, based on staged intervention and underpinned by strong health promotion activities.

Your attention is particularly drawn to aspects of the programme delivered within the school setting as changes are imminent regarding the timing and frequency of scheduled contacts with school age children. A copy of 'Guidance and Principles of practice for Professional Staff', which was developed for health professionals, has been enclosed for your information as it provides details of the core programme to be

delivered. Details of this are summarised on page 78 of the document. The School health service provided by local Trusts will be in contact with all schools to explain the changes but meanwhile it would be useful if you could circulate this for information across your organisation. Further copies can be obtained from [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/governance/governance-guidance](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/governance/governance-guidance).

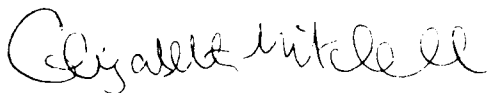
If you would like further information please contact either:

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](mailto: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](mailto:angela.mclernon@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



**DR ELIZABETH MITCHELL**  
Acting Chief Medical Officer



**MR MARTIN BRADLEY**  
Chief Nursing Officer

cc: Directors of Nursing at HSS Boards  
Directors of Nursing at HSS Trusts  
Mrs Susan Carnson, Department of Education  
Directors of Public Health at HSS Boards  
Medical Directors at HSS Trusts  
AHP Board Commissioners

1. British Paediatric Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners, the General Medical Services Committee of the British Medical Association, the Health Visitors' Association and the Royal College of Nursing.
2. Health for All Children, 4th Edition, David M. B. Hall & David Elliman, Oxford Medical Publications, 2003.