



Health Visiting Services in England – Opportunities and Challenges


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What do we know?

- New government support and prioritise public health and specifically growth in health visitor capacity
- Coalition Agreement and NHS White Paper intentions
- Outcome of Action on Health Visiting

What don't we know?

- What the details of the spending review will mean
- What the incentives and levers for increasing the workforce will be in a new and devolved system



*So what do we do nationally
and locally to overcome
challenge and embrace
innovation?*

New Government - Opportunity: Earl Howe

We are determined to address health inequalities and improve public health.

Nurses are key to thishealth visitors working with families, communities and Sure Start and school nurses working with school populations. They will make skilled and significant contributions to this. We are committed to increasing the number of health visitors in the workforce to provide the best health, well-being and support services for all children and families and to improve services for those who need additional support.

Action on Health Visiting - Successes

- Producing the 'Getting it Right for Children Maximising the Contribution of HV' guide
- Defining 5 key roles for health visitors
- Developing a model of practice and a safeguarding referral tool
- Undertaking research into the potential for attracting new people and returners into the profession
- Piloting return to practice
- Setting out actions needed to increase the numbers of health visitors
- Planning for monitoring and publishing numbers

Action on Health Visiting - Challenges

- HV workforce has slowed but not been reversed
- HV joiners and leavers not balanced
- New/more flexible approaches to education
- Ability to increase numbers through return to practice
- HV morale/energy
- Innovative approaches to skill mix
- Commissioning of child health services
- Posts have been frozen/lost
- SureStart/general practice issue remains contested

Achieving better health for children, families and communities: the health visiting contribution

Improving public health

(*Best health outcomes)

Developing community resources

(*Community capacity/Big society)

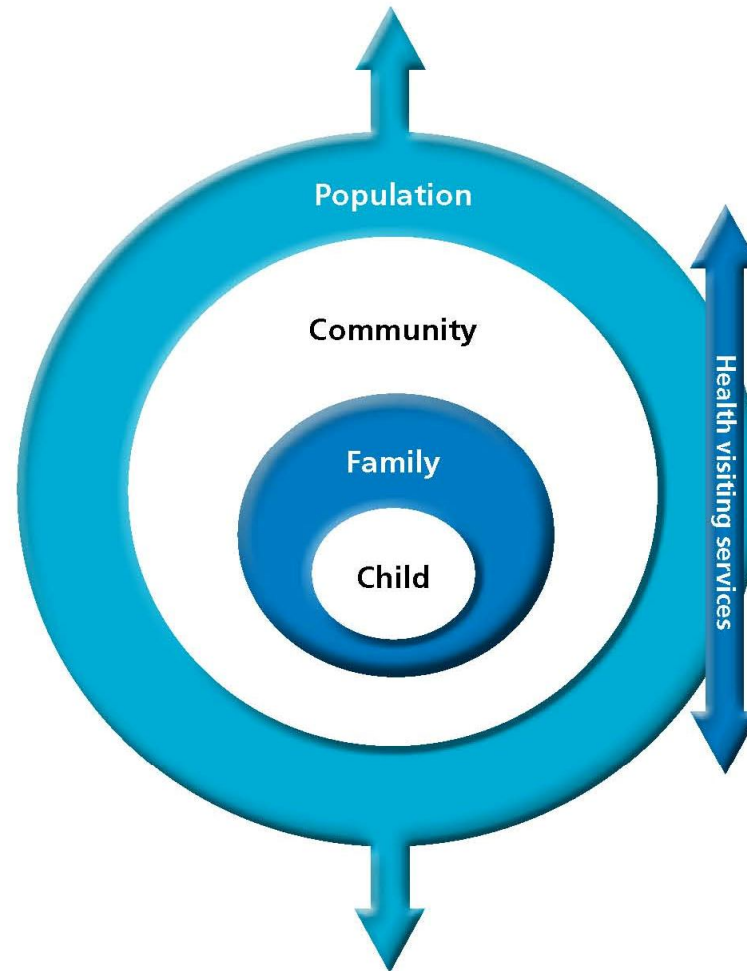
Maximising family resources

(*Supporting families)

Bridging family and services and primary health care services

(*General practice focus for health)

Accessing Specialist Services



Health Visitors

(*empowered professionals with
more autonomy)

**Health Visitors: skilled to
improve health outcomes by:**

- Providing family health services – more contacts and extended range care packages
- Champion of wider health and wellbeing, prevention and public health, building family and community capacity
- Utilising resource – leading teams delegating and referring

What next: National Actions

Demand

- Developing and promoting the new service model
- Further developing the model of practice
- Developing skills/confidence/leadership in current workforce

Family and Child Health

- Promoting prevention and stimulating 'demand' for key roles
- Improving commissioning of HCP (up to 19)
- Developing outcome measures/metrics and tariff
- Maximising Public Health White Paper opportunities HV and ScN

Supply

- Reviewing Return to Practice programmes
- Analysing workforce profile
- NMC are reviewing the third part of the register
- Developing education modules to further enhance skills to deliver any new/extended roles
- Implementing alternative education models
- Reviewing capacity, barriers and incentives for Community Practice Teachers and placements.

Local action – overcoming challenges - leading change

Provider organisations and professionals can overcome the challenges by:

- Modelling the ‘health promoting practitioner’ role
- Contributing to improving morale nationally
- Developing and leading strong teams
- Keeping up to date with new thinking
- Contributing to the commissioning of local services
- Health skills and knowledge of health needs of local communities and families
- Ensuring that training plans and CPD incorporate new knowledge and skills
- Listening to and acting on the experience of children young people and families
- Embracing professional and service innovations

Finally

We know enough to understand the opportunities and challenges

We have opportunity to influence where things are not known/not finalized

Action will increasingly be local

We need to move from engagement to mobilization



Opportunity is in our hands