

Our School Nurse Role Explainer

Connect for Health Service



Job role: School Nurse

Service: Connect for Health

Essential Skills

Friendly and approachable

Good communication skills

Patient and understanding

Compassionate

Good time management and
prioritisation

Good attention to detail

Leadership

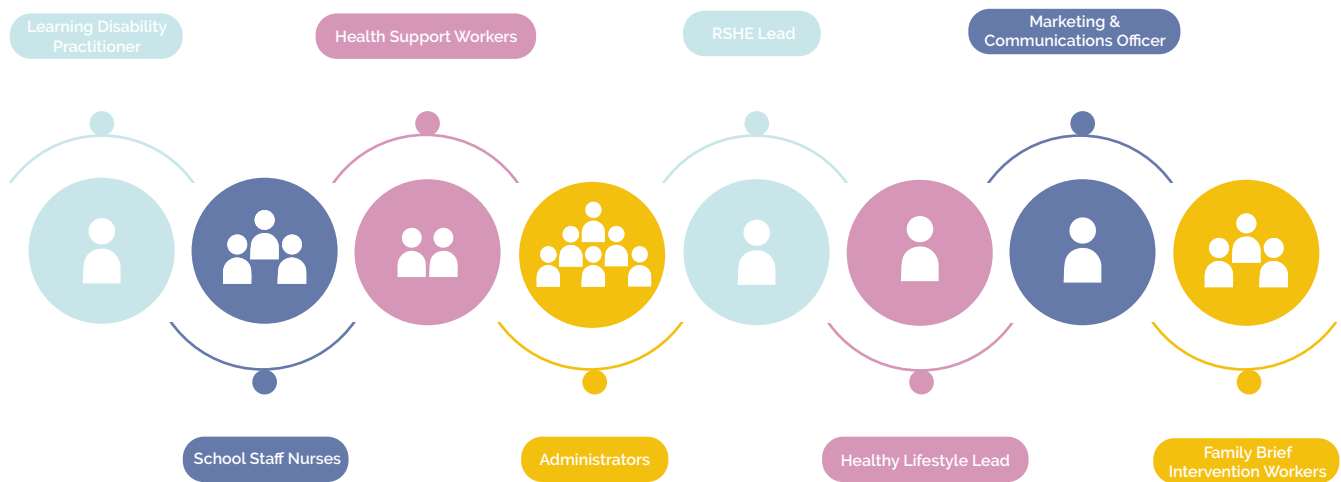
Introduction to the role

The role of a School Nurse is to lead the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme. At Connect for Health the School Nurse does this by:

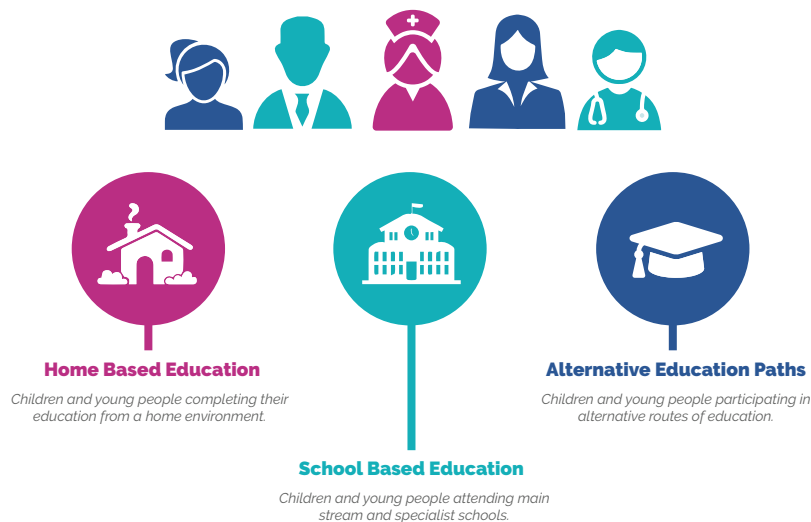
- Leading skill-mix colleagues so they can improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) by providing support and information,
- Providing supervision and training to enable colleagues to support those with additional vulnerabilities e.g. those with long-term health conditions and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Overseeing the universal health interventions and health promotion programme for a team.
- Working within local guidelines and processes to safeguarding children and young people.

Here at Connect for Health we have the benefit of School Nurses working in teams with Health Support Workers (HSW's), Family Brief Intervention Workers (FBIW's), qualified School Staff Nurses and Administrators. They also have the benefit of working with our; Learning Disability Practitioner, Marketing and Communications Officer, Relationship and Sexual Health Education and Healthy Lifestyle Leads, all as part of the broader Connect for Health service.

Working with the School Nurses ...



School Nurses are members of multi agency early help network groups and also lead Connect for Health development group meetings. Currently our development groups are working on exploring how we better reach school aged CYP from Gypsy, Roma Traveller and home educated communities.



Our Vision, Our Mission

Our goal as a service ...

At Connect for Health we give children, young people and their families (CYPF) the tools to succeed and lead healthy, happy lives. We do this by ...



Promoting health

Providing valuable and essential healthcare information and tools to our CYPF's.

As a School Nurse you would do this by:

- Making every contact count - sharing Public Health information during individual meetings with CYPF, whilst delivering group workshops or whilst completing child health and wellbeing assessments.



Preventing ill health

Using your professional knowledge and experience to prevent and reduce ill health and inequalities.

As a School Nurse you would do this by:

- Liaising with fellow health colleagues and completing individual healthcare plans so that CYP with long-term medical conditions, such as epilepsy and anaphylaxis, can fully access their education.
- Meeting with CYP who have indicated a health need having completed our online health questionnaire.
- Responding to CYP and parents who have raised a query via our confidential text messaging service, ChatHealth.



Protecting the vulnerable

Safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable CYPF's.

As a School Nurse you would do this by:

- Hearing the voice of the child by completing holistic health assessments with them.
- Sharing the health assessments with CYP's family and professional colleagues during safeguarding meetings. Advocating on behalf of CYP and keeping them as the focus of discussions.
- Completing health assessments for CYP who are in care.
- Supporting and guiding colleagues with managing their own safeguarding caseloads.

Leadership of teams

At Connect for Health the School Nurse have a strong leadership element to their role. They therefore have a smaller case-load to the School Staff Nurses. In addition to their direct work with CYPF's they also have role responsibility for:

- Triaging referrals received into the service, allocating them to the most appropriate colleagues.
- Leading a team of skill mix colleagues to schedule and deliver a programme of health promotion across a geographic area.
- Precepting new School Staff Nurses, developing their competence and confidence in their role.
- Writing Public Health plans following the completion of the year 6 and year 9 health needs assessment (HNA).
- Devising and distributing rotas to ensure that key areas of service delivery such as MASH response, "duty nurse" and ChatHealth are covered on a daily basis.
- Bi-annually reviewing key C4H Governance documents such as the Standard Operating Guidance (SOG), care pathways and guidance documents. In addition, reviewing health intervention programmes and messaging used by the service. These reviews ensure that guidance documentation for colleagues remains current and appropriate.
- Providing clinical and safeguarding supervision to team colleagues, ensuring they have the right knowledge, skill and competence to appropriately support CYPF.
- Completing audits to ensure service effectiveness is being maintained through staff following ratified care pathways.
- Completing safeguarding witness statements when requested to do so by Family Court.



What does a normal day for a School Nurse look like?

There is no such thing as a normal day - every day is different and come with its own individual set of challenges and rewards.

Morning

The day could start by heading into the office to review the referrals received into the service over the last three days. Following an agreed pathway you will decide whether to accept or reject the referral, recording your decision and rationale in the health record. You will then review staff existing case-loads which will help to inform you whom to allocate referrals to.

Whilst in the office you provide ad hoc safeguarding supervision to a family brief intervention worker (FBIW) who has concerns about a family they are working with. You advise them to contact the allocated social worker with an update and then arrange to meet again with the FBIW later in the week to ensure that safeguarding work is progressing and the child is being adequately supported.



Mid-day

Following lunch, you head out to a secondary school to arrange a year 9 health needs assessment with the year head. Once this is booked with school you liaise with members of the skill-mix and health promotion teams to ensure that staff are available to deliver the HNA session and health promotion activities. You then meet with your preceptee, exploring the aims and objectives of the yr 9 HNA and discussing ratified processes to be followed.

Afternoon



The day concludes with you completing a child in care review health assessment at a children's centre. The child is being well looked after by the foster carer though there was a comment made about the child not always brushing their teeth. You therefore take the opportunity to remind the child about how to look after their teeth. The review health assessment paperwork will be completed tomorrow morning before you then begin a record keeping audit.



Contact Us

If you wish to get in contact with us regarding our School Nurse role then please feel free to contact the service and ask to speak with Karen Cornick, our Service Manager.



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