

Consultation about future partnership working for 0-19 Public Health Services (Health Visiting, School Nurses and Family Nurse Partnership)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the consultation about?

Gateshead Council and Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) are consulting on a proposal to enter into a formal partnership arrangement around the future delivery of the 0-19 Public Health Services (Health Visiting, School Nurses and Family Nurse Partnership). The focus of the consultation is not on the individual service but on the Section 75 partnership arrangement itself. It is open to anyone who wishes to comment on the proposed arrangements.

Why did you choose Harrogate?

HDFT have considerable experience in delivering the 0-19 Public Health Services in Gateshead and across the North East region. The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service is currently delivered by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT NHS) under a services contract with the Council.

If it will be the same partner, why do you need to change anything?

The aim of the Section 75 partnership agreement is to enable us to work closely together on priority areas, with more flexibility and innovation to improve service integration, and embed collaborative working. This is important for enhancing and further developing relationships between the local authority, HDFT, partners, communities, and families in Gateshead.

Will there be any changes to Programmes?

HDFT and Gateshead Council will continue to work together to respond to changing needs of our communities. HDFT are the current provider and under the Section 75 agreement the current work between Gateshead Council and HDFT would continue. This allows for the continuation of work and retention of valuable local knowledge. The Section 75 agreement will not change the current employer or terms and conditions for any staff.

Is this a way to reduce costs or cut Programmes?

No, we recognise that the services are an important part of the wider system and provide crucial support to children, young people and families. Functions of the 0-19 service under the Section 75 would further align with wider early help services to reduce fragmentation and duplication with the aim of further improving outcomes for families in Gateshead. It is believed that a formalised strategic partnership with HDFT, one of the Council's trusted partners, offers better prospects for achieving the priorities and vision for Gateshead.