

School Nurse 121 Campaign



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Many thanks to all of you who have responded to the Questback survey to support CPHVA's School Nurse 121 Campaign – I will be in touch soon. Please keep an eye on the campaign website (www.unitetheunion.org/cphva) where there will soon be new resources organised by the CPHVA communications department.

Action

Copy the sample letter or write your own and send it to your local newspaper. Email your MP about school nursing.

Local elections

Many of you have new county councillors, some of whom are surprised to find themselves in post! No matter; whatever party they are from they have a duty to represent all their constituents.

Action

Before your councillor becomes too busy make a point of meeting them at their 'surgery' and telling them all about school nurses and how important you are. You can use the slides on the 121 Campaign website to help with your presentation.

Social media

Do you use Twitter or Facebook? There are plans to set up a dedicated Twitter forum for school nurses, so watch this space. Meanwhile, when tweeting, please use the hashtag #SNSoMe.

Action

Please send me one reason why you are a school nurse and what is good about your job (rosalind.godson@unitetheunion.org) and we will start tweeting all those we receive at @unite_cphva

Public Health England report

Public Health England (PHE) (www.gov.uk/phe) is a new quango with a mission to 'protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities, working with national and local government, the NHS, industry, academia, the public and the voluntary and community sector'. It has just published its priorities for 2013/14. Helpfully, at number 4, is: 'Supporting families to give children and young people the best start in life, through working with health visiting and school nursing, Family Nurse Partnerships and the Troubled Families programme.'

The plan is to:

- Launch a national programme promoting healthy weight and tackling childhood obesity, working with the Department of Health, other government departments, schools, the NHS and local government
- Partner the Troubled Families programme
- Support the continued development of key programmes for 0–5s (including health visiting, school nursing and Family Nurse Partnerships)
- Partner the Early Intervention Foundation to develop the evidence base for early interventions, and build support and commitment across the public health system and potential investors for practical evidence based measures that can support the life chances and

outcomes for children, youth and families.

There is an emphasis on the wider determinants of health, many of which begin in childhood. Consequently, now is a good time to arrange a presentation for your local Director of Public Health if you haven't yet done so.

Child Safety Week (24–30 June)

School nurses in some areas get involved with multi-agency work around child safety, but many of you tell me that it has been squeezed out by pressure of work. The Child Accident Prevention Trust (<http://capt.org.uk>) has resources available to encourage you to be an active supporter. These include a downloadable booklet with lots of ideas about where you can make a difference, such as holding a session using their DVDs on burns and scalds, medicines and poisons, or road accidents. They mention school nurses in the context of those interested in safety of children in the community.

Action

You need to be very visible at the moment, so either join in with an activity organised by your school or public health department or organise an activity within one of your schools and invite the local press to see what the children are doing. Visit: www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/

UNICEF report

The latest UNICEF report card, 'Child wellbeing in rich countries; a comparative overview' is based on research from 2010 (www.unicef.org.uk/Latest/Publications/

Report-Card-11-Child-well-being-in-rich-countries/). It shows the UK at about mid-table (of a total of 29) for most of the rankings, although we are still doing poorly on teenage pregnancy. However, since then, the downgrading of youth services and cuts to local government services are having a profoundly negative effect on young people aged 15–19. As benefit cuts begin to bite, Unite research shows that they will hit families with children hardest, so expect our position to worsen.

Action

It might be worth asking your local director of public health if she or he has plans to tackle any of the issues locally.

RCGP report

A new report from the Royal College of GPs entitled Commissioning a Good Child Health Service, is – as you'd expect – quite medically focused and includes acute care and specialist services. However, it is

interesting to see how GPs view their role and their priorities, which include:

- Increase in unscheduled attendances
- Neonatal feeding problems
- Inappropriate A&E attendances
- Prenatal and adolescent mental health issues
- School issues – exclusion of very young children with troublesome behaviour
- Children with chronic and long-term illness
- Transition issues
- Safeguarding and looked-after children.

There is an emphasis on good communication, including with school nurses, although this is around accessing immunisation records. There is acknowledgement of the Healthy Child Programme, although less understanding of how it fits into GP work. They pose the questions: 'Can we offer space for school nurses to consult after school or other innovative services for our CYP?' 'Are practice nurses aware of the Healthy Child Programme and their role?'. To read the report in full

visit: www.rcgp.org.uk/~media/Files/CIRC/Child%20and%20Adolescent%20Health/RCGP-Child-Health-Modelling-Task-Group-April-2013.ashx

Action

See if your local practice nurses get together for meetings and go and make a presentation to them about school nurses' work.

Becoming a Unite representative

We do need more school nurses to come forward as reps as our current ones (mostly health visitors) need some support.

Action

Did you read the article on becoming a rep ('The role of the Unite health sector representative) in last month's CP? You might find it easier if two of you came forward; maybe a colleague from another area, or a community nursery nurse. If you would like to discuss the idea first, then do get in touch.