

School Nurse 121 Campaign



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This will sound very London-centric, but bear with me. There are 32 London boroughs with their own councils, but there is an over-arching second tier called the Greater London Authority (GLA), headed by the mayor of London, currently Boris Johnson. There is a separate Lord Mayor of the City of London, as those of you who have been to the annual Lord Mayor's show will know.

Last year the GLA started supporting the Healthy Schools programme across the capital with their Healthy Schools London awards programme, and it is going well. You will remember that the English government used to support this, but after the election in 2010 it was scrapped; and although schools were encouraged to be healthy there was no money, incentive or organisation.

In London there is now a small team of dedicated staff and a website where schools can sign up and access resources and information (see: www.healthyschoolslondon.org.uk). All schools are encouraged to try for the bronze award, which is a comprehensive review tool. Thereafter, they identify an issue where they plan to make improvements for the silver award, and achieve this with the gold award.

Although much of this is self-regulated, sustainability is integral to the system, as the award only lasts for two years before review. As those of you who have been involved with the programme for many years will know, it does need local ownership and leadership.

I should point out here that many other areas of the country also have their own



functioning healthy schools programmes, which isn't surprising as it is such an obviously beneficial way forward.

The Health Promoting Schools Programme is a World Health Organization initiative (www.who.int/school_youth_health/gshi/hps/en/), which uses a whole-school approach to health and wellbeing, and it is frustrating that the benefits are subject to party political whims and fashion.

According to the WHO, a health promoting school should:

- Foster health and learning with all the measures at its disposal.
- Engage health and education officials, teachers, teachers' unions, students, parents, health providers and community leaders in efforts to make the school a healthy place.
- Strive to provide a healthy environment, school health education and school health services along with school/community projects and outreach, health promotion programmes for staff, nutrition and food safety programmes, opportunities

for physical education and recreation, and programmes for counselling, social support and mental health promotion.

- Implement policies and practices that respect an individual's wellbeing and dignity, provide multiple opportunities for success, and acknowledge good efforts and intentions as well as personal achievements.
- Strive to improve the health of school personnel, families and community members as well as pupils; and works with community leaders to help them understand how the community contributes to, or undermines, health and education.

Scotland and Wales have continued to embrace the programme and embed it into their national policies.

Action points

- Read up about the Health Promoting Schools programme.
- If you don't know, find out if your local

borough or council has a healthy schools lead or co-ordinator.

- If you haven't already, meet this person and explain about school nurses (if necessary). Take along the information provided from your government (this can be found on the school nurse resource page of the website (www.uniteunion.org/cphva)).
- If you are in London, check out the London website (www.healthyschoolslondon.org.uk).
- Make sure that the local healthy schools co-ordinator/lead has contact details of the lead professional school nurse to put onto the local website.
- If you don't know whether or not any of your schools are engaged in the programme, find out and get yourself onto the steering committee.
- When you are canvassed for your vote in the forthcoming local and European elections, be sure to ask whether your

candidate will support the adoption of health promoting schools in your area.

Unite CPHVA has been involved with the *Supporting pupils in school with medical conditions* guidance, which has been added to the Care Bill (currently going through English parliament) and will become statutory. This was borne out of concerns about incidences where a child's medical needs were not properly dealt with at school. We have many school support staff in membership, and much of the document is aimed at governing bodies and proprietors who employ them.

School nurses will need to help their schools draw up or update the medicines policy and lead on drawing up individual care plans. In our response, we have indicated some tightening up of requirements, particularly around training, accountability and safeguarding.

Action points

- Contact the lead school governor for health at your school and explain your role in this (if necessary).
- List the number of schools and care plans that you should lead on and bring this to the attention of your manager if it is too much work for you.
- Contact your local Unite/CPHVA representative if there are any problems.
- This is a crucial time for school nurses to show that they are the correct (and only) person whose job is to lead on health in schools. We should not let this opportunity pass us by.

We are trying to keep in contact with you via social media as well as in *CP*. If you are on Twitter, use the hashtags #snsome and #SN121 in your tweets, and do follow me @RosGodson and @Unite_cphva. *CP* hosts Twitter chats on Tuesdays, so look out for these @commprac.

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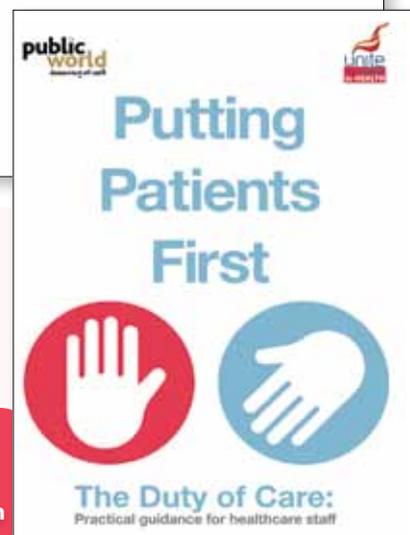
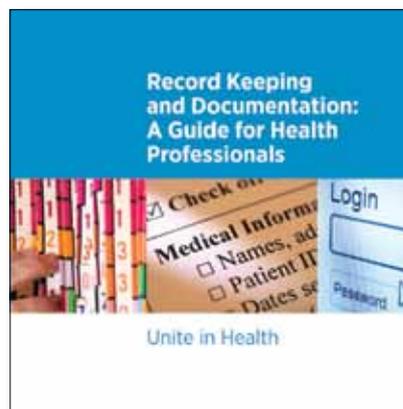
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