

Health Visiting proposal to enter into a partnership agreement

Summary Document

What is this consultation about?

This consultation is about a proposal for Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and South Warwickshire University Foundation Trust (SWFT) to enter into a partnership agreement (known as a Section 75 agreement) for the delivery of the 0-5 health visiting service. Currently WCC commissions SWFT to deliver the service and has done so since 2017.

A Section 75 Agreement is a way of allowing local authorities and health bodies to work together to provide and monitor services jointly in partnership to ensure they are delivering the best outcomes.

We are seeking your views on the proposal and to understand any impacts you feel this may have.

Why are you doing this?

There are several reasons:

1. The current contract ends in March 2024. This means that we need to plan and decide on the future arrangements for the provision of the service now.
2. Engagement with families and healthcare professionals consistently tells us they want more joined up services that are easy to access and which work with other services that may be supporting the family.
3. A Section 75 agreement provides a mechanism by which we can achieve integrated services for families. It enables us to do this by providing a legal basis to work closer and more collaboratively with the local healthcare sector. At present Warwickshire County Council is responsible for the commissioning of the service. This agreement enables SWFT to take up this role and therefore align more with other services your local NHS provides for infants and children.
4. There is a rising level of needs for children 0-5 emotionally, socially and physically and we need to be innovative in how we respond to ensure every child can have the best start in life.

Who's this for?

Anyone living in Warwickshire, new parents, parents with children aged 0-5, using the Health Visiting Service, previously used the service, using the Family Nurse Partnership or previously used the service. Healthcare professionals and other related professionals.

What is involved? What do I need to do?

Participation involves reading either this summary document or the main Public Information Document and other supporting information on the main website (as needed) and then completing a short survey.

How will this impact me? What difference will this make?

There will be no change in services provided as a result of the proposed Section 75 agreement. The agreement enables both partners to continue to work together to improve the delivery of the Health Visiting service.

The service will not change how it operates in any material way, families will continue to receive their mandated contacts, however the partnership approach will offer a more joined up pathway with a benefit in terms of access to services.

Potential benefits include:

- Stability in support – this option ensures continuity of service, meaning no disruption to the support you currently or may receive.
- More seamless care between the current services and access to the right services at the right time.
- A greater level of personalised support to your level of need.
- Earlier identification of support needs, family challenges and connecting to relevant support.
- Clearer understanding and defined purpose of what and how health visiting can help and what other services in the early years of a baby's life can do.
- Ability to refer on as needed for more specialist needs such as mental health support, communication needs and other more specialist needs.
- A cohesive united offer of support across 0-5 years for the infant and family.
- The service will not be interrupted in any way, families and children who use the service do not need to do anything or re-register for support.

What other options did you consider?

1. Asking potential providers including the current provider to apply to deliver the contract and we evaluate which best meets needs and requirements.
2. Bringing the service 'in-house' such that Warwickshire County Council directly deliver the Health Visiting Service.

What are the next steps?

- This survey will be open from 14th August to 30th September 2023
- Consultation responses will be analysed and will help inform the decision on whether it not to progress with this proposal.
- Participants will be informed through the Ask Warwickshire site of the outcome and findings.