

"We have seen the worst consequences of what can happen when children and young people's services fail to join up around the individual. Without clear action to improve the connections between services, we simply won't be doing enough to keep our children and young people as safe and healthy as they deserve to be. For some time now, we've talked about the need to improve the seamlessness between children and young people's care. By getting all the parties together, the government ministers in charge of children's health and services can demonstrate just how high a priority this collaborative approach is for them."

Jo Webber, NHS Confederation interim director of policy.

Note: This document comprises the key recommendations from the report, which can be downloaded from <http://www.nhsconfed.org/priorities/latestnews/Pages/NHS-leaders-call-on-ministers-to-lead-joining-up-of-childrens-services.aspx>

## Key recommendations

### Recommendations for national government and bodies

We urge the Government to implement the recommendations from the CYPHO Forum's report.

- We recommend merging the outcomes frameworks for the NHS, public health, adult social care and children and young people. This would ensure national bodies and local areas plan together to achieve shared outcomes.
- More joined-up government at national level is needed. A step change in joint working is required to address the lack of coordination between the policies and other requirements of different Government departments and national bodies.
- Investment in school nurses should be similar to that of the national health visiting programme. Without such focus on school nurses, this part of the workforce will lose out as areas focus on achieving the health visiting targets.
- The NHS Commissioning Board safeguarding accountability framework and revised statutory safeguarding guidance of *Working together* must be clear about the roles and responsibilities of all health professionals. It must be clear where the accountabilities for safeguarding children and young people lie so that all organisations can ensure they are fulfilling their statutory duties and responsibilities.
- The national dashboard being developed to monitor implementation of the mental health strategy should incorporate the recommendations and indicators included in the CYPHO Forum's report, and be connected to the data, intelligence and knowledge functions of Public Health England and the Department for Education. This should ensure join-up nationally of population-wide interventions and support integration.

### Recommendations for local organisations and professionals

We focused on five key areas: integration, primary care, complex needs, safeguarding and mental health.

#### Integration

- All organisations (health, social care and education) should use the NHS number as the unique identifier across the system.
- Schools, police and crime commissioners and others commissioning children and young people's health services should take an active part in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
- The new strategic clinical network for maternity and children's services should incorporate health improvement as well as health protection and healthcare services, and look at specialised commissioning for children with disabilities across care pathways.
- Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch should focus on the boundaries and interfaces between different types of services and transitions from children's to adult's services.
- A designated transition lead should be identified within a local area to support improvements in transition, link different organisations and services together and monitor progress.
- Young people's representatives must be part of patient forums shaping children's and adults services, in order to reduce risks created by multiple levels of commissioners.

#### Primary care

- Key elements of children and young people's human rights, as well as the Healthy Child Programme, should be incorporated within GP and primary care professionals' training.
- GP practices should have children and young people engagement forums.

- There needs to be a commitment to build on the evidence base of the impact of child health and maternity services on long-term adult health, and to commission services using this evidence base.
- The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) should be amended to incentivise GPs to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- The tariff system for acute care should be reformed to incentivise quality across pathways and be connected to incentives with the QOF.
- There needs to be careful integration of the Healthy Child Programme within the mainstream commissioning and provision of primary care. There is a risk that important elements of the programme will not be commissioned in an integrated manner or at all, for example parenting support and screening for post-natal depression, unless the NHS Commissioning Board, CCGs and local authorities work together.

#### Complex needs

- Clarification regarding the proposed new arrangements for children with special educational needs and disabilities is needed, in particular regarding: communication and information sharing between organisations; provision of universal services for those who do not qualify for a plan; standardising the age of transition to adult services to 25 years; and how this fits with health services currently provided up to the age of 16, where responsibility sits for ensuring delivery of the plans and the role of allied health professionals in prevention and health improvement.
- Health providers need to redesign pathways to ensure closer alignment between adult and paediatric health services, whilst maintaining appropriate care and connections with social care and education.

#### Safeguarding

- All local safeguarding children's boards should strengthen engagement and involvement of children and young people and report on activities.
- The effectiveness of young people's involvement in safeguarding needs to be measured.
- A core set of operating principles and competencies for all health professionals and organisations working within multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASHs) need to be developed and information held by NHS-funded providers must be systematically shared with MASHs.

#### Mental health

- Efforts need to be aligned to strengthen the Healthy Child Programme with the implementation of the mental health strategy.
- CCG commissioning for mental health needs to be connected to the public mental health work of local authorities through health and wellbeing boards.
- Payment tariffs for children and adolescent mental health services must focus on measuring integrated care and working across multiple agencies, including schools.

#### Further information

The full report is available at [www.nhsconfed.org/publications](http://www.nhsconfed.org/publications). It is the work of: the Association of Chief Children's Nurses; the Child and Maternal Health Observatory; the Child Health Development Programme; the NHS Alliance; the NHS Confederation; the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement; the Royal College of General Practitioners; the Royal College of Nursing; the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### rREDUCED pOLICY cOMPANY

The Reduced Policy Company has been established to make policy documents more accessible to the professional and lay reader. More information is available at [www.reducedpolicycompany.com](http://www.reducedpolicycompany.com)

© Chris Waterman