



Involving Parents Through Health Visiting Services

How the health visitor role is changing: The review of nursing in the community.



Four main reasons for change:

- Patient and carer needs
- Scotland's ageing population profile and associated health care needs
- Health and social policy
- Nursing, health and social care workforce issues.



The review recommends that nursing services :

- Are designed around the needs of individuals and communities
- Utilise the true value of nurses and that the contribution nursing can make is realised
- Build on the strengths of the present as well as the needs of the future
- Support nurses to move between teams and offer attractive career choices



The review recommends

- the disciplines of district nursing, health visiting and school nursing be absorbed into a new, single ‘community health nursing’ discipline.
- a strong partnership approach with individuals, families, carers and communities
- Multi agency working
- Focus on providing services that meet local needs and complement and reflect national priorities



The review model intends to provide:

- A skilled generalist role for community nursing, dealing as the first point of contact for individuals and referring on to specialists when a greater degree of expertise is required.
- A health based model in which the community nurse will take a lead role in preventing illness and promoting health as well as caring for those who are ill.
- A role founded on the principle of caring for families and communities rather than just the individuals within them.
- Nursing services which meet the expectations of individual, carers, families and communities



Tensions within the model:

- Although public health role is identified as important, the reason for the changes is an increasingly elderly population and reduction in workforce
- Frontline staff remain to be convinced
- Requires meaningful engagement with social care services and voluntary agencies
- Nursing capacity to deliver the model
- Generic nature of the model



How will this affect the service to parents?

- No immediate changes.
- May result in more ‘skill-mix’ involvement with parents.
- Less access to health visitors
- CHN’ s will be generalists and have less specialised knowledge.
- Referral for problems to advanced practitioner.
- More multi-agency involvement.



References:-

- Jarvis, A. (2007) '*Accessible and integrated care: Scotland's community nursing review*'. British Journal of Community Nursing Vol 12, No 4.
- Pollock, L. (2007) '*Responses to 'Visible, accessible and integrated care' the practitioners voice.*' QNIS.
- Scottish Executive Health Department (SEHD)(2005) *Delivering for Health*. Scottish Executive, Edinburgh.
- Scottish Executive Health Department (SEHD)(2006) *Visible, accessible and integrated care. Report of the review of nursing in the community in Scotland*. Scottish Executive, Edinburgh.