Implementing the Integrated Health and Early Education Check for two year olds in Cornwall

September 2015
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Summary

Headlines
This document outlines the Integrated Two Year Check process that will be implemented in early years settings and by health visitors in Cornwall from September 2015. This is in order that the needs of two year old children are appropriately identified and supported so that children make the best progress possible from their starting points and are helped to achieve to be ready for school by the age of four.

This will meet the objective of the Integrated Early Years Strategy\(^1\) which is:

“To develop an integrated strategy for Cornwall that utilises all early childhood services in order that children achieve the best possible outcomes at the end of their reception year and that their families and the early years settings, children centres and other providers of childhood services such as health visitors, are supported and work together in order to give all children the best start to life.” \(^2\)

Distribution -
This document will be relevant to all early years settings and staff in the private, voluntary, maintained and independent sectors and to all health staff involved in completing the integrated two year check. It will be available through electronic distribution and through the Family Information Service\(^3\) web site.

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\(^2\) Integrated Early Years Strategy 2014-16 Cornwall Council

\(^3\) [http://www.cornwallfisdirectory.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/fsd/home.page](http://www.cornwallfisdirectory.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/fsd/home.page)
Context

Background

This document clarifies arrangements in Cornwall for implementing the integrated two year check. It covers the statutory progress check required for all children who receive Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision and the ASQ Review offered to all children aged 2-2 ½ years old. Full explanatory details are available from the Foundation Years national website⁴.

In Cornwall there are over 500 early years settings who will deliver checks to two year old children. These take place in a range of settings, from individual childminders with only one or two children to large childcare providers with many children on one site. This implementation guidance reflects the fact that in Cornwall the integrated two year check must be deliverable across a varied and large geographical area, that each setting is unique and that the numbers of children being assessed by any one provider in any one year are variable. It also reflects the fact that in many smaller, rural settings facilities are such that co-located integrated reviews are unlikely to be possible. This guidance therefore clarifies what is expected during the check process and how integration will be achieved in order that where the most vulnerable children are identified as requiring help they will be supported appropriately by early childhood services.

⁴ http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/?s=integrated+2+year+check
**Objectives -**

The objectives for Cornwall are therefore that:

1. All children are able to access the relevant check at the age of two as part of the Healthy Child Programme\(^5\); underpinning support for children in developing school readiness prior to transition to school.

2. Effective checks for children aged two ensure that where children’s development may be a concern this is identified appropriately and that children and their parents or carers who are vulnerable or at risk of disadvantage receive the help and support they need.

3. Information gained from the review process is relevant, accurate and where necessary shared in a timely way to inform key partners in order that integrated support following agreed pathways from appropriate children’s services and practitioners is secured and all children achieve and make progress to the best of their ability.

4. Parents and carers are supported throughout this process and receive appropriate and effective support and guidance about their child’s development in order that children’s outcomes improve.

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Implementing the checks

In Cornwall it is the expectation that 100% of children will receive an invitation to their health check as per the Healthy Child Programme and it is expected that the majority (approximately 95%) will attend this. Any child who has not attended a meeting they have been invited to will be monitored using the health visiting systems for follow up non attendances.

It is expected that every two year old accessing early years provision will attend a setting where all statutory requirements related to assessment are met and that this is monitored by Ofsted and by local authority early years support staff in order to ensure this is the case.

It is recognised that there are a number of challenges to implementing simultaneous health and early years checks. For example this may be because:

1. Health reviews are often completed prior to the child starting funded early years provision. This is due to funding only starting in the term after a child’s second birthday.
2. Settings do not have the physical space to be able to provide the opportunity for co-location of services.

In Cornwall integration will therefore be implemented through a shared understanding of the review processes and the swift and appropriate sharing of information where concerns have been raised. General information will be obtained through discussion between the setting’s named health visitor and the setting staff and shared by the completion of the child’s parent held record. It is recommended that all staff are aware of and complete the national Information Sharing Matters online training programme http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/information-sharing-matters-online-education-resource/ which will enable staff to understand what information can be shared and how to improve information sharing in appropriate ways.

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6 http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2014/07/eyfs-framework-update/
Where any concern is raised about a child’s development staff completing assessments it will also be important to make a referral through the Early Help Hub or MARU [http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/earlyhelphub](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/earlyhelphub).

The page below demonstrates the two routes by which most children will access their check.
Children NOT attending EY Provision

- At age 2 all children receive an invitation to a 2 year old health check.
- All children are assessed, given advice about children centres, two year old funded early education places and early education for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Where there are no issues and a child starts an early years setting the setting staff must check the child’s red health book and/or talk to the setting named health visitor and child’s parents to check whether any additional information is available.
- Where further need is identified the child will be referred to appropriate service through the Early Help Hub (EHH)/MARU eg SALT, Children centres.
- If advice is to attend pre-school provision then the setting’s named health visitor/FNP practitioner will ensure that the setting is involved in planning support in order that the child’s needs are met. Relevant advice and guidance can be shared in order to support the child’s development. Both teams to attend relevant meetings such as TAC meetings. Child’s progress monitored by the EY setting on an ongoing basis with a further ASQ check if applicable. Where possible joint health/early years parent meetings may be held although it is expected this is likely to be where children are attending children centre sessions where health support is co-located at the centre.

Children already attending EY provision

- At age 2 all children receive an invitation to a 2 year check and receive their pre-school check. Setting to check the child has had a health check and advise the parents/carers to do this if possible. Settings must liaise with named health visitor.
- Setting and health visitor/FNP practitioner both carry out the relevant 2 year old check. If all is well then information shared via red book and/or through discussion with named health visitor. All children to receive advice related to the children centre.
- Where either service identifies an additional need then the parent/carers should receive appropriate advice and guidance, an appropriate referral to other services should be made via the EHH/MARU and directly between the setting and health visitor. Relevant advice and guidance can be shared in order to support the child’s development. Both teams to attend relevant meetings such as TAC meetings. Child’s progress monitored by the EY setting on an ongoing basis with a further ASQ check if applicable. Where possible joint health/early years parent meetings may be held although it is expected this is likely to be where children are attending children centre sessions where health support is co-located at the centre.
### Management of Implementation

The work to be undertaken by the health visiting service will be specified within the commissioning framework for health visitors.

Early Years settings are required by the Early Years Statutory Framework 2012 to complete progress checks at the age of two for children. They will continue to be supported to do this through the implementation of the Early Years Quality Improvement and Support Programme (EYQISP). The arbiter of quality in early years settings remains with Ofsted, however should any setting be graded Requires Improvement or Inadequate by Ofsted the Local Authority Early years Improvement Team will insist on an action plan for the setting to ensure that there is effective compliance with any Ofsted recommendations.

### The impact of the integrated review

The effectiveness of the integrated review will be assessed through a number of measures:

1. 95% of children attend their review with a health visitor (Figure at March 2015 83%).
2. Ofsted inspection outcomes that demonstrate implementation of two year checks in early years settings meets statutory requirements.
3. Children Centre Quality and Performance Management (QAPM) indicators that demonstrate the number of children with children centre membership who are actively engaged with the centre, particularly in speech and language programmes is increasing and that attendance is improving outcomes for this group.
4. On entry assessment data for schools that should demonstrate an improvement in school readiness.
5. Improved Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data (EYFSP), while available, that shows a reduction in the achievement gap for vulnerable groups.
6. A reduction in the number of referrals through EHH for children needing additional support at the ages of three and four.

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7 [http://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/site.page?id=PMK0_ZnXEw0](http://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/site.page?id=PMK0_ZnXEw0)
**Evaluation and review**: First review date January 2017.

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**Document information**

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**Additional resources and information may be found here:**

http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2012/09/integrated-review-faqs/

HCP2 – 2 ½ year review guidance:

Implementing the Two Year Review in Cornwall Ver 0.4


EYFS progress check at age 2 guidance:


https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-review-at-age-2-implementation-study
Alternative formats
If you would like this information in another format please contact: Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY
Telephone: 0300 1234 100  email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk
www.cornwall.gov.uk
Please consider the environment. Only print this document if it cannot be sent electronically.