Health visiting teams care for the health and wellbeing of babies, children and their families.

Teams work closely with parents, families and others—such as family doctors, school nurses, midwives, Children's Centres, Social Care Services, local community groups and voluntary services.

The Health Visiting Service, along with others, has a duty to ensure that children are safe and protected from harm. We can offer advice and support to parents in difficult situations—for example where there is domestic abuse or violence.

The information you give your Health Visiting Team is confidential and will not be shared with anyone without your permission.

However, there may be special circumstances when it is necessary to share information, without your permission with other professionals if your child or any other child is at risk of harm.

Have you recently moved to the area with a child under 5 years of age? Ring us and let us know you are here.

Is your child 1 year old and you have not had an invitation for a developmental review? Ring us and let us know.

If you need to cancel a visit or an appointment please ring us to cancel. The telephone number is in your child's Red Book.

We train nursing and medical students, who may help with your care. If you would prefer students not to be involved, please talk to your health visitor.

Information for families
What you can expect from us and who is involved

Any questions? Call us
Contact details on the back
Do I have a health visitor?

All families with children under 5 years old have a Health Visitor.

Health Visitors are qualified nurses who have had extra training and experience in community and child health. We are trained in child development, breastfeeding support, baby and child nutritional advice and protecting children. We can visit you in your home and also run clinics for babies and toddlers.

We work closely with Children’s Centres, your GP and other local doctors, midwives, school nurses plus other health care professionals.

How do we work?

We arrange home visits to all newborn babies and their parents as well as to families who have moved into the area.

We run breastfeeding support groups.

We run child health clinics at community clinics as well as some doctor’s surgeries or Children’s Centres.

We can give advice on child health and on family and parenting issues and refer on to local support services.

The service is available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The Healthy Child Programme

Health visitors work in teams which may include staff nurses, nursery nurses and office clerical support.

Your health visiting team will provide a service to all families that, depending on need, may include:

- **A visit while you are pregnant** to talk about your health, preparing to become a parent and to start your family health needs assessment.

- **A new birth visit when your baby is 10 - 14 days old** to talk about parenting, feeding, health checks, immunisations and planning future health care.

- **A Mood and Family Health Needs Assessment** contact between 4—8 weeks after your baby is born.

- **A clinic based service** which can give you information and support around feeding, parenting worries and your child’s progress as well monitoring their growth and development.

- **A contact by 1 year** which includes the offer of a developmental check, information and support around feeding, immunisation, child health, safety, parenting and relationships.

- **A contact by 2 and a half** which includes offer of a developmental check, information and support around speech, language and communication, play opportunities, behaviour management, parenting, keeping safe, nutrition and dental health.

- **A contact at school entry** when your child is between 4 and 5 years which is an opportunity to discuss any concerns you have about their health. If your child is at a Wandsworth state school this will be in the form of a school entry questionnaire.

Support for parents & carers

We will work with you to complete a Family Health Needs Assessment. This gives you as parents the chance to talk about anything that is worrying you about your own health or other issues affecting your family. We can then help you find the right help.

Postnatal depression affects some women after they have had a baby. We will make sure we talk with you about your feelings and offer ongoing support and a referral for extra support if you are feeling low.

**Your local Children’s centre**

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555