

HEALTHY SCHOOLS STEERING GROUP

Sub Group: The Role of the School Nurse

17 April 2002

Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter EX2 7NL

MINUTES

Present: Dr Charles Holmes (Chair)
Betsy Allen
Lucy O'Loughlin
Linda Scofield
Liz Smith
Teresa Smith
Margaret Wadsey

Apologies: Gillian Feest, Selena Blake, Jill Rose

- | Item No. | Discussion |
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| 1.1 | CH re minutes from last meeting and definition of this group's focus on the needs of the 'well child' from 4 th Edition of Health for all Children. It was acknowledged that the needs of the vulnerable child were also part of the school nurse role. |
| 1.2 | The school nurse 'Tool Kit' is seen as offering standardised service and has been well received. Whether this will be taken up or not is another matter. Discussion about the vision of how this could work in practice. |
| 1.3 | Betsy raised the issue of how school nurses work as a team, making most of individual skills and experiences. |
| 1.4 | CH mentioned his work with Jill Rose (commissioned by HA) – Health Needs of the School Age Child which developed The Role of School Nurse – which should be a basis for future work patterns (plus the 'Tool Kit'). This has 'stalled' at present owing to restructuring demands. How to use the pack depends on new structure and personnel to 'spark' it into activity. All PCTs need new Director of Public Health and with school nurse issues to be a priority. |
| 1.5 | CH said that A-PAUSE decisions need to be kept on the agenda. Other PCTs are awaiting the Exeter review. |
| 1.6 | Discussion around putting together a portfolio/programme of sessions school nurses can offer (cf Youth Affairs). |
| 1.7 | Proposals from last meeting for letter to Academic Councils to raise awareness in schools of changing school nurse role. CH and Jill Rose have e-mailed letter to Gillian Feest. It was decided that the original government document wording should stay intact. A |

brief letter should be attached to the whole of the document. Someone from the PCT should be a contact to organise how this will be done. A covering letter will be sent to the new Directors of Public Health to raise the profile of this initiative. CH offered to do this.

1.8 Finally it was suggested that other representatives should be invited to join the group. These included Dr Paul Cautheron (CAMHS), a member of Devon School Governors, Judy Cochrane from Early Years Partnership, and a Health Visitor.

1.9 For the next meeting it was requested that Jill Rose bring along a breakdown of what qualifications there are for school nurses – please, Jill, in your absence! *Does this mean training or qualifications?*

1.10 **NEXT MEETING: 10 JULY 2002, 10 a.m. GREAT MOOR HOUSE**