

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 17 September 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Families

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the new statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, to ensure schools make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board notes the contents of the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Mismanagement of a child's health conditions whilst at school can have serious consequences. In 2010, the inquest into the death of asthmatic 11-year-old Samuel Linton, a pupil at Offerton high school in Stockport, Cheshire, heard how a teacher told him to sit in a corridor when he had a serious asthma attack one afternoon in December 2007. A teacher whom pupils alerted to Sam's situation told them she was in a meeting and he would have to wait. By the time his mother got to the school, he was grey and his lips were blue. He died soon afterwards. The inquest jury returned a verdict of neglect which, they said, had involved 12 separate failings by the school, 10 of which "caused or significantly contributed to" his death.
- 3.2 There are estimated to be over 1 million children in the UK with an underlying health problem such as asthma, epilepsy, Type 1 Diabetes, anaphylaxis and ME whose condition means they either need extra support while at school, or could end up needing emergency assistance, or both.
- 3.3 This statutory duty under the Children and Families Act 2014 addresses the need for children and young people to get the help, support and understanding which they need from schools and their staff to manage their medical conditions whilst at school.

4.0 OVERVIEW

- 4.1 From **1st September 2014**, governing bodies will have a new statutory duty - under the Children and Families Act 2014 - to ensure schools make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions.
- 4.2 A medical conditions policy will be required, ensuring pupils with medical conditions have full access to education, including physical education and school trips.
- 4.3 The [Department for Education's revised guidance](#), states:
- a medical conditions policy must be in place, so that pupils with medical conditions have full access to education, including school trips and physical education
 - governing bodies should ensure this policy is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and staff
 - appropriate training for school staff must be arranged
 - governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure children's needs are effectively supported.
- 4.4 The guidelines say: "Parents of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health will deteriorate when they attend school.
- 4.5 "It is therefore important that parents feel confident that schools will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that pupils' feel safe."
- 4.6 The new Statutory Guidance issued in April 2014, '[Supporting pupils at schools with medical conditions](#)' replaces the previous Guidance '[Managing Medicines in Schools and early Years Settings](#)' which was issued in 2005. So this role isn't totally new to schools, however there are some key changes that schools must respond to quickly.
- 4.7 This [Guidance](#) applies to **schools, academies and Pupil Referral Units**. For further information please click on the link provided.

5.0 WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 In order to support schools to fulfil their statutory duties, a range of resources will be made from 1st September 2014. These resources have been developed in conjunction with:
- Consultant, Public Health
 - Health Co-ordinator for Children of School Age
 - Clinical Manager School Health, Bridgewater
 - Lead Pharmacist - Halton Locality Medicines Management Team
 - Commissioning Manager Health, Public Health
 - Acting Divisional Manager, Inclusion 0-25
 - Principal Health and Safety Advisor

- Operational Director, children's Organisation and Provision

These resources include:

- A revised 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' policy, including a blank policy template which schools can adopt if they wish to do so;
- A list of the available training for school staff, including governors and teachers;
- Information bulletins will be circulated to schools advising them of the changes through the schools e-bulletin, Chairs of Governors Briefings etc.
- Information will be made available through Halton's Local offer and the Children's Trust websites.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The policy implications stemming from the Statutory Guidance issued under the Children And Families act 2014, firmly puts responsibility for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions onto schools. Although schools must take the lead, they will need support from local authorities and health providers if they are to be able to undertake this role.

7.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There may be financial implications for schools in responding to the changes, for example should they wish to employ a dedicated person to have overall responsibility for this policy implementation or should they wish to buy in additional training for staff.

The local authority and health providers must consider the support offered to schools including training, to ensure that this meets the needs of pupils and schools where appropriate.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The legislative changes, which will be implemented in line with the statutory guidance, will ensure that pupils with medical conditions receive the support they require to have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. This can only benefit children, young people and their families, improving their health and well-being and enabling them to participate more fully in school life.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

If pupils are able to fully participate in school life and are given the support they need to manage their medical condition whilst at school, this should contribute to improving attendance and academic

achievement, which in turn will improve their chances of employment and accessing higher education.

8.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Pupils health is at the centre of these changes, as mismanagement of a pupil’s medical condition whilst at school can have serious consequences. It is important that both the child/young person and their families can feel confident that they will receive the appropriate level of support required so that their medical condition will be appropriately and well managed whilst at school.

8.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

8.5 **Halton’s Urban Renewal**

None

9.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 It is vital that schools, health providers and the local authority are clear about their statutory duties and responsibilities under the Act with regard to supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. In discharging these responsibilities, there will be a need for risk assessments to be undertaken, to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff. The risk to pupils of schools not providing appropriate support to help manage their medical condition whilst at school can be serious and far reaching.

10.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

10.1 Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions will enable them to fully access education including school trips and physical education. No child with a medical condition should be denied admission to a school or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. This should improve equality for these pupils within the school setting.

11.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children and Families Act 2014	2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Runcorn	Debbie Houghton
Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy	6 th Floor Municipal Building	Tony Dean
Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and	2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Runcorn	Debbie Houghton

proprietors of academies in England		
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