

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

1. Question: What will be the new role for current school nurse support workers?

Answer

The refocused school nursing role would be supported by a wider skill mix based on the needs of the local school age population. For example, this team could be responsible for providing routine screening, immunisations, BMI, health zones or drop ins, wider public health work as per local priority areas and could include Allied Health Professionals, staff nurses, support workers, health improvement staff and potentially education staff, social work staff or Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services. Clear links and liaison will need to exist between the school nurse role, wider skill mix team and education staff.

2. Question: Will they need to be re-skilled?

Answer

A national programme of Continuing Professional Development is being developed by Scottish Government, in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland and NHS Boards. This will focus on key priority areas and will include support and training for all members of the school health team as identified by NHS Boards.

3. Question: And will there be a requirement for support workers within this new transformation team?

Answer

This is a decision for NHS Boards based on their workforce and the needs of the school age population.

4. Question: When will the current support workers be informed of their future?

Answer

The refocused school nurse role and role of the wider team has been developed over the last two years by a National Scottish Government Group in partnership with all NHS Boards, professional bodies, Higher Education Institutes and NHS Education for Scotland. This work has involved significant feedback, input and testing by all partners and specific NHS Boards. A development event is being held on 29 July 2017 for all Boards to discuss implementation. This will include discussion around the skill mix team and support required in and around the refocused role. Individually Boards' will need to review local requirements, models and workforce plans in implementing the refocused school nursing role.

If you have not already done I would suggest that you discuss your concerns with your team leader or Director of Nursing.