

Terms of Reference

EALING 'SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS' WORKING GROUP, NOVEMBER 2017

Purpose

The main objective is to **produce a medical conditions policy for Ealing schools** to adopt, based on DFE guidance, and tailored according to the local situation.

This will enable:

- Consistency/standardisation of medical conditions policies in Ealing schools
- Clarity around roles and responsibilities
- Clarity around individual healthcare plans
- Clarity around expectations of training
- Updating of the existing 'managing medicines in schools' document, to include recent legislative changes such as the use of spare adrenaline auto-injectors in schools.

Other outputs will include guidance on implementation of the policy, updating the Ealing Grid for Learning (EGFL) website¹ and production of a promotional infographic for schools.

Context

Since the Children and Families Act in 2014 schools² have had a statutory duty to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions at school, and in doing so, adhere to guidance published by the Department for Education (DFE) in 2015.³ However, there is evidence of poor implementation of this duty and adherence to the related DFE guidance. In early 2017 the Health Conditions in Schools Alliance conducted a survey of 200 schools in England, and only 11.5% of these schools demonstrated that they had an adequate medical conditions policy that followed statutory guidelines.⁴

The local situation in Ealing mirrors this, with many schools not having an accessible medical conditions policy on their website, and the content of each policy is variable.

¹ <https://www.egfl.org.uk/facilities/health-and-safety/managing-medical-conditions-schools>

² 'Appropriate authorities' according to section 100 of Children and Families Act 2014 include governing bodies of maintained schools (excluding maintained nursery school), management committees of Pupil Referral Units and proprietors of academies, including alternative provision academies (but not including 16-19 academies).

³ DFE (2015) Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

⁴ <http://medicalconditionsatschool.org.uk/>

The context for the formation of this multi-agency working group in November 2017 is a recognition of the need to support schools to meet this duty, especially in light of the two tragic deaths in Ealing schools in 2016/17 and increasing staff concerns over roles and responsibilities. This is also against a backdrop of financial pressures for schools, the local authority and the NHS, including a reduced capacity of the school nursing service.

Meetings

The wider group will convene twice between November 2017 and February 2018. The core group may have additional meetings between this time to produce the policy document.

All members are required to prepare as necessary in advance of meetings and proactively contribute to activities according to their knowledge and skills.

Membership

Core Group

Dr Vaishnavee Madden, Consultant in Public Health, LBE (Chair)
Beryl Bevan/Jerzy Paszkiewicz, Pharmacist Leads, Ealing CCG
Yugesh Wadhwa/Sharon Stuart, Interim School Nursing Leads, LNW
Therese McNulty, School Workforce and Governance Adviser, LBE

Wider Group

Deborah Waddell/Jacqui Reilly, Asthma specialist nurses, LNW
Sally Armstrong, Practice Nurse, Ealing CCG
Ann Coles, Designated Safeguarding Nurse, Ealing CCG
Dr Shanker Vijaydeva, GP, Ealing CCG (Medicines Management lead)
Dr Tamsin Robinson, GP, Ealing CCG (Designated Doctor, LAC)
Surrinder Aulak, School Nurse
Vivien Chin,
Raj Chowdhury, Health and Safety Advisor, LBE
Sara Nelson, Healthy London Partnership
Kier Smith, Headteacher William Perkins School
Ruth Sykes, Headteacher, St Anselms School
Denise Feasey, Headteacher, Mandeville School
Mary Lancaster, Schools Trade Union Officer
Christopher Prowse, Schools HR Consultant
Navida Sayed, Parent/Carer

Governance structure

The working group will report to the Ealing Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). The Education subgroup of the ESCB will undertake monitoring/evaluation of the outcomes of this groups' work (e.g. in 1 year).