

Introduction to the National Healthy Schools Programme and Gateshead Healthy Schools

Gateshead Healthy Schools is a partnership initiative, co-ordinated by Gateshead Council's Raising Achievement Service within the Learning and Children group and Gateshead Primary Care Trust's Health Promotion Team. The programme is implemented in partnership with Gateshead's primary, secondary and special schools as well as the specialist units. The partnership and programme achieved accreditation to the National Healthy School Standards (NHSS), an element at the National Healthy Schools Programme (NHSP), in January 2002.

Recently the Government has given commitment to the NHSP through references in the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (DH and DfES), the Five Year Plan (DfES), Choosing Health (DH) and the recent guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan (DfES). In addition, the number of healthy schools in each local authority area has been an indicator in the pilot Joint Area Reviews and Annual Performance Assessment, as well as an indicator in the pilot Local Area Agreements. This reflects the significant contribution of the programme in assisting schools to meet the Every Child Matters outcomes of 'being healthy' and 'staying safe' in particular, as well as aspects of 'enjoying and achieving', 'making a positive contribution' and 'achieving economic well-being', all of which schools will need to demonstrate to OFSTED.

In Gateshead, 98% of schools have achieved healthy school status (level 3). However, building on existing achievements the White Paper, Choosing Health (2004) introduced more stringent and more demanding criteria for healthy schools to achieve, in addition to the existing evidence requirements. From September 2005, in order to be recognised as achieving healthy school status, schools will be required to meet specific criteria in the following core areas: PSHE (including SRE and drugs education), healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health and well-being (including bullying).

Our local programme has been amended/updated to encompass the new, White Paper requirements, and local health/education priorities. The Gateshead Education/Health Partnership looks forward to supporting schools that have already achieved healthy schools status (level 3) and those still working towards this, to make the necessary adjustments and progress in meeting the new, White Paper healthy school status criteria.

In Gateshead we are fortunate that a large network of agencies is part of this Partnership and supports our programme. This means we are able to offer young people the opportunities that will empower them to pursue healthy lifestyles and to work as positive agents of change for the health of their families and communities.

In light of the fact that both teachers' feedback and national evaluation reports show that involvement in the NHSP has a number of potential benefits for young people and the school community e.g. better attendance, improved attainment and increased access to education and health opportunities, we hope that your school will continue to take up the challenge of working to become a healthy school, and by doing so contribute to an improvement in educational standards and health outcomes for the population of Gateshead.



Mrs. Maggie Atkinson
Group Director, Learning and Children
and Director of Children's Services



Dr. Mark Lambert
Director of Public Health
Gateshead Primary Care Trust



Alun Davies
Health Education Adviser
Tel: 0191 433 8670
Email:
alundavies@gateshead.gov.uk



Don Sweeney
Raising Achievement
Consultant (Healthy Schools)
Tel: 0191 433 8667
Email:
donsweeney@gateshead.gov.uk



Carole Ann Robson
Raising Achievement
Consultant (Healthy Schools)
Tel: 0191 433 8671
Email:
caroleannrobson@gateshead.gov.uk

Raising Achievement Dryden Centre
Evistones Road
Gateshead
NE9 5UR

Tel: 0191 433 8500
Fax: 0191 482 6500 or 0191 491 1394



Claire Mawson
Senior Health Promotion
Specialist (Young People)
Tel: 0191 497 1489
Email:
claire.mawson@ghpct.nhs.uk



Tom Hall
Health Promotion Specialist
(Healthy Schools and Obesity)
Tel: 0191 497 1516
Email: tom.hall@ghpct.nhs.uk

Health Promotion Team
Public Health Directorate
Team View
5th Avenue Business Park
Team Valley Trading Estate
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE11 0NB

Website: www.healthpromotion.demon.co.uk



Helen Riley
School Nurse
Tel: 0191 445 5253
Email:
helen.riley@ghpct.nhs.uk

Child Health – Ward 4
Bensham Hospital
Saltwell Road
Gateshead
NE8 4YL
Tel: 0191 4455250



Eileen Westthorp
Resource Information Officer
Tel: 0191 433 5684
Email: eileenwestthorp@gateshead.gov.uk
Dunston Activity Centre
Ellison Road, Dunston. NE11 9SS

Schools may contact the Core Team members for advice and support whilst working to gain the Healthy School Status.

In Gateshead, schools will be phased over 4 years:

- Phase A - encouraged to self validate by December 2006,
- Phase B - encouraged to self validate by December 2007,
- Phase C - encouraged to self validate by December 2008,
- Phase D - encouraged to self validate by December 2009.

All schools will be assigned a Core team representative as usual. Your Representative will be there to support you through your application on a one-to-one basis. There will also be the opportunity for cluster meetings and the usual half days of training for Lead Teachers - Healthy Schools.

Why do it in phases?

The reason for phasing our roll-out of the NHSP is two-fold:

1. The size of the change from the old Gateshead Healthy School Award portfolio format, to the new Self Validation process of the new programme. More information on the process can be found in Section Two.
2. Our capacity is not great enough to enable us to support all Gateshead Schools in one academic year. It is much more realistic to offer a smaller number of schools more support over a longer period, rather than trying to support all schools at once.

Your school is not rigidly placed in any phase. You can apply whenever you feel you have met the criteria. The phasing is to help us plan and target our work over the coming years.

The previous Gateshead Healthy School Award had a number of local and national awards as mandatory requirements of the criteria. Due to the introduction of the NHSP this is no longer the case.

This is not to say these awards are now redundant. On the contrary, these awards will serve to strengthen your application to the NHSP.

Award	Supports NHSP Criteria...
Standard Smoke Free School Award	1.6
Gold Smoke Free School Award	1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9
Healthy Eating Award (ended in July 2006, however awards received previously are valid for 3 years)	2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11
Activemark (Due to be re-launched in 2006, linked to Sports Partnership)	All of Physical Activity theme 3
Sportsmark (Due to be re-launched in 2006, linked to Sports Partnership)	All of Physical Activity theme 3

Your Core-team representative will have more details on the above awards if you wish to apply.