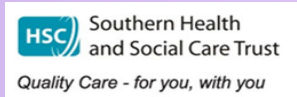


# Primary Care Multi-Disciplinary Team



Newsletter Issue 6 - June 2021

## Development of District Nursing and Health Visiting within the Primary Care Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Southern Trust is working in partnership with Newry and District GP Federation to roll out the Primary Care Multidisciplinary Teams initiative in General Practice which aims to promote the physical, mental and social wellbeing of local communities.

### Claire Russell — Primary Care MDT District Nurse Lead

"I have been a District Nurse for over 25 years and have practised as a District Nurse in both the Belfast Trust and Southern Trust. In recent years I have led on the Neighbourhood District Nursing pilot alongside an experienced District Nursing team in the Moy within the Southern Trust. The pilot demonstrated the importance of this model which aims to improve safety and quality by developing a one team approach provided by a neighbourhood District Nursing team, 24 hours a day within a designated community and aligned to the GP practices with the ethos of home being the best and first place of care. The regional transition that District Nursing is currently undergoing is very exciting with wonderful opportunities for the MDTs, District Nursing and for the patients and communities we serve."



Claire Russell  
Primary Care MDT  
District Nurse Lead

### Dr Henry Mc Laughlin Primary Care MDT GP Lead for District Nursing and Health Visiting



Dr Henry McLaughlin  
GP Lead for District  
Nursing and  
Health Visiting

"I practiced as a GP for 30 years in Rostrevor before retiring to follow an interest in palliative care. Over the years it has been apparent to me what a vital role District Nurses play in our community. Their work with the house-bound, those with chronic diseases, in palliative care is essential and the service will benefit from the increased staffing that the MDT offers. The resources of the MDT will allow the District Nurses to take a much more pro-active role in health promotion and disease prevention. The new neighbourhood District Nursing model will be the key to this expansion. Health visitor case loads have been recognised as too large for some time. The addition of MDT Health Visitors to reduce caseloads will allow us to achieve outcomes in keeping with *Transforming your Care, Making Life Better* and delivering the *Early Intervention Transformation Program* and *Healthy Future strategies*"



## Enhanced Health Visiting in MDT

Delivering Care recommends a regional average one WTE health visitor per 180 children aged 0-4 years old, the average caseload per health visitor within the Southern Trust service is 250 children. Investment into health visiting has enabled the allocation of 4 WTE health visitors, which in turn has facilitated a reduction in a number of the caseloads in the MDT to the recommended 180.

This reduction in caseload will allow the health visitors to deliver the Universal Child Health Promotion Programme (CHPP) to pre-school children within the NDFFP area. It will also permit additional interventions where a health need is identified, for example, in response to postnatal depression, parenting and child development concerns, challenging behaviour, breastfeeding, healthy weight and nutrition, infant jaundice, feeding difficulties, attachment and bonding problems. In addition interventions to meet the health needs of children with complex and/or child protection and safeguarding needs would also be met. The MDT model will allow closer working with colleagues in the MDT in particular GP's, the mental health practitioners and social workers to contribute to more support for families when the need arises. Being based in, or close to the GP surgery will provide the opportunity for increased networking and regular communication with their colleagues.

Pictured are some of the health visitors working in the NDFFP MDT Corrina Feehan, Carol Freeburn, Debbie O' Cleirigh, Karen McKee and Eileen Johnston.



If you require any further Information please contact:

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