

To: Parents and Carers

16th December 2024

Re: Support for your children's health needs whilst in school

Dear Families,

Following our previous letter on Wednesday 18th September 2024 and the coffee morning on Monday 16th September 2024, we are writing to update you on the healthcare provision changes at Ivy House School and across Derby and Derbyshire.

As previously shared, Derby & Derbyshire ICB has taken over the commissioning of the health service from September 2024, with the aim to introduce a new hub-and-spoke model. This model is designed to train school staff to deliver delegated healthcare duties under the clinical oversight of registered healthcare professionals. The school will also retain on-site nursing staff to handle non-delegated healthcare tasks.

These duties are outlined in a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that was shared with schools for consultation in November 2023. Schools provided feedback on the process in December 2023. The finalised SOP is progressing through the clinical sign off process that is required in the NHS. Without this being finalised, the school are unable to fully plan for the integration of the model into its daily operations. Despite these challenges, the school are pleased to report they have successfully incorporated enteral feeding into its practice, delivered by our Health Welfare Support Assistant (HWSA) team.

We must also inform you that Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, which currently delivers nursing care at Ivy House School, will no longer be responsible for delivering healthcare services from March 2025. However, the ICB has begun a procurement process to appoint a new provider to deliver their new model and have assured the school there will be no disruption to healthcare services during the transition to the new model.

Due to uncertainties faced by Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, many of the nursing team members have left the service or are currently unavailable. We would like to recognise the exceptional efforts of Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust during this period. They have worked tirelessly to minimise disruption by utilising bank staff and exploring additional support from NurtureCare to address the gaps in staffing. As we shared previously, NurtureCare was commissioned by the ICB to provide additional healthcare support from September to accommodate the school's growing student numbers and changes within the healthcare team. NurtureCare have now established themselves into school life and Helen the nurse has been providing a focal point for families. Along with regular carers who continue to provide support to Teaching Assistants and working alongside the HWSA team.

We understand that these changes may raise concerns, but we want to reassure you that the welfare of all students within the school remains everybody's highest priority. All services are working together to ensure that no student's safety or wellbeing is compromised.

To provide further updates and answer any questions you may have, we invite you to a follow-up coffee morning on **Monday 20th January**. Representatives from the school, ICB, and Nurture Care will be present to address your concerns and provide clarity on the next steps.

If you're able to attend, please let us know by completing this [form](#). If you're unable to attend or have any questions or comments beforehand, kindly use the same form to let us know.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these changes together.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Smith
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Integrated Care Board

David Ainsworth
Operations Director
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Ian Armstrong
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