

0-19 years' service section 75 agreement FAQ

This document contains a summary of the questions that have been asked so far.

We will update it as further questions come in.

What is the consultation about?

Darlington Borough Council is leading a joint consultation on a potential partnership with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), aiming to link health visiting and school nursing services more closely with other services which support children and young people and their families in Darlington.

Why did you choose Harrogate?

We already work with HDFT as our preferred NHS partner because we believe their approach to the joint development of services most closely matches ours.

HDFT have considerable experience of delivering health visiting and school nursing services in Darlington, and currently do so in seven other local authority areas, six of them in the North East, including County Durham and Gateshead.

Furthermore, they have shown that they are committed to the local delivery of services by ensuring they are an engaged and supportive partner to the wider system and through the retention and development of local staff and management teams.

If it's all going to be the same, why do you need to change anything?

The purpose of entering into a partnership is to enable our two organisations to develop service delivery together, and HDFT in particular will want to build relationships with other services in Darlington for children and young people and explore with staff their ideas about how their contribution to the wider collection of services could work better.

The Council currently thinks that HDFT shares the Council's view of how partnerships should operate and what kinds of management and decision-making arrangements best support the joint development of services. HDFT will continue to work alongside partners and the 0-19 staff to support any local service transformation.

What kinds of changes to services might there be?

We currently expect our joint priority to be the increase in demand on the School Nursing Service.

HDFT will continue work with staff and the 0-19 management teams to support any changes required to meet the changing needs of the population, including 5- 19 safeguarding transformation and more emphasis on emotional health and resilience.

Is this a way to cut costs or reduce services?

No. Both services are crucial parts of the wider pattern of services supporting children, young people and families. They provide public health support to all children and families. They also

provide additional support to children and families who need it, and can when necessary, call on the help of a range of other support services. The proposal is to provide coordinated support for children



of all ages and their families. HDFT does not intend to cut any staff and will continue to work with the local teams and the management team for the service to ensure all vacancies are reviewed and to develop new roles if required to support specialist roles.

How will the services maintain links with their partners within the Darlington Borough?

The operational staff and management structure will remain the same, delivered by the same staff with their local knowledge of Darlington, and retaining those key relationships with all stakeholders.