

Implementation of the *Facing the Future: Together for Child Health Standards*

The *Facing the Future: Together for Child Health* standards are designed to ensure that services are planned and organised around the child with care provided closer to home where appropriate and with quick access to an expert opinion.

The standards should complement a service's assessment of the needs of their service. We want to support and prompt conversations with services that do not meet the standards, including facilitating discussions between neighbouring services on how the standards might be met by working as a bigger team in network configurations.

Consideration of the workforce (paediatricians, nurses and GPs) needed to deliver the standards is available on the [RCPCH website](#).

The standards should be considered together with the [Facing the Future: Standards for Acute General Paediatric Services](#) which focus on the care of children in the hospital.

The Colleges cannot implement these standards alone and will require support and agreement from other NHS organisations. The implementation plan sets out how the RCPCH, RCGP and RCN will implement the standards by:

- Supporting and equipping members across the three Colleges with the information and skills to influence at a local level
- Supporting services to implement the standards
- Continuing discussions and negotiation between the Colleges and key stakeholders at a national policy level
- Ensuring children and their parents and carers know the quality of care they can expect and helping to change behaviours

An audit of the standards is planned for 2016/17. We recognise the need for flexibility locally and will be interested to hear, during the planned audit, of alternatives being implemented and the evidence behind them. This is intended to be a live document and future iterations of the standards should be expected.

Progress against this implementation plan will be monitored by an Intercollegiate Implementation Board.

Implementation plan

1. Local level: Supporting and equipping members across the three Colleges with the information and skills to influence at a local level

Ensuring members are aware of the standards	Bespoke communication plan: A bespoke communications plan across the three Colleges to ensure that members are aware of the standards.
Supporting and equipping members to influence at the local level	RCPCH, RCGP and RCN Council Regional Representatives: Advocacy role for Council Regional Representatives . Use of RCN Children and Young People's Forum members to promote the standards.
	Summary of the standards: Development of a one page summary for commissioners and service planners.
Supporting GPs and paediatricians to train and work together	Learning Together to Improve Child Health: The RCPCH and RCGP are working together to ensure that in future all GP trainees receive specialist-led training in child health. <i>Learning Together to Improve Child Health</i> is a joint position paper by the two Colleges which sets out a shared vision, common educational principles and examples of shared learning that will encourage and inform the future development of more integrated approaches to training and assessment between the two disciplines.

2. Service level: Supporting services to implement the standards

Benchmarking service provision	Workforce implications: Modelling of the implications of the standards on the paediatric, GP and community children's nursing workforces.
	Audit of the standards: Audit of the standards across the UK by RCPCH, RCGP and RCN in 2016/17.
	Outcome measures: The RCPCH is developing a set of five to ten outcome measures for acute paediatric services which are relevant to patients and carers, to clinicians and to service planners and commissioners.
	Invited Reviews Service: The RCPCH's Invited Reviews Service aims to support healthcare organisations and teams to resolve concerns or benchmark service provision, including safety, training, compliance with standards and proposals for reconfiguration, expansion or service design. Through the provision of experienced reviewers and in-depth knowledge of standards and service models, the Reviews can help employers, commissioners and managers work with clinical colleagues towards designing sustainable services that provide improved outcomes for children and compliant, effective working arrangements for clinicians.
Supporting the development of networks	Bringing Networks to Life: Bringing Networks to Life provides advice, checklists and examples to aid clinicians in developing and maintaining networks to provide services across a large geographical area.
Sharing good practice	Paediatric Care Online: Funded by the Department of Health, Paediatric Care Online is an innovative programme to provide an online resource to support and enhance the delivery of paediatric care by health professionals in the UK.
	Signposting to guidance and examples:

	Signposting to examples or templates, for example, care pathways that have already been developed and can be adapted for local use.
	Good practice hub: Development of an online webpage to share further practice examples and case studies.
Providing a forum for discussion	Joint RCPCH, RCGP and RCN event: An event approximately one year after publication to discuss implementation of the standards and share learning and good practice.
	Annual Clinical Leads day: The RCPCH Paediatricians in Medical Management (PiMM) Committee organises an annual event for clinical leaders. These are interactive workshops towards linking national policy to local activity, an overview of new evidence, standards and research and identifying outcomes to influence commissioning. For example, ‘Managing Change - Reconfiguration for Improvement’ in February 2014 and ‘Making Improvement Happen’ in December 2014.

3. National level: Continuing discussions and negotiation between the RCPCH, RCGP and RCN and key stakeholders at a national policy level (influencing the influencers)

Engaging and influencing key external stakeholders	Launch: Launch of the standards at the RCPCH annual conference. Regional events across the UK to launch the standards locally.
	Publicity: Raise the profile of the standards through comment pieces and interviews in key trade press and by attending key events.
	Individual meetings with key stakeholders across the four nations: A targeted approach and dialogue with identified key stakeholders across the four nations. For example, the Colleges are already working with the Children and Young People’s Health Outcomes Forum, a key external stakeholder, to raise the profile and support implementation of both <i>Facing the Future: Together for Child Health</i> and the <i>Facing the Future: Standards for Acute General Paediatric Services</i> . For example, the Colleges have worked closely with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in England in the development of their acute and community inspection methodology.

4. Ensuring children and their parents and carers know the quality of care they can expect and helping to change behaviours

Ensuring children and their parents and carers know the quality of care they can expect and changing behaviours	Children’s and parents and carers’ version of the standards: Development of a children’s version of the standards and a parent and carer’s version of the standards (supporting parents to access the right help and explain key terms) led by the RCPCH’s network of children and parents and carers and working in partnership with other patient/parent groups.
Dissemination of the standards to children and parents and carers	Dissemination: Use of existing routes such as Royal College channels, Mumsnet, Netmums, Family Lives, National Children’s Bureau, Action for Sick Children.