

*National Service Framework  
for Children, Young People  
and Maternity Services*

# LEAFLET **for** **PARENTS**



department for

**education and skills**



Department  
of Health

*The National Service Framework for Children,  
Young People and Maternity Services:*

## Leaflet for Parents



### What is a National Service Framework?

A National Service Framework is a set of standards of quality for health and social care. These describe the level and type of services the NHS and councils should be providing locally. They aim to reduce the differences in the level of care that people receive, for example, because of where they live or their ethnicity, by raising quality overall.

There have been five earlier National Service Frameworks which have set standards for the care of people with diseases such as coronary heart disease, mental health problems and services for older people. This National Service Framework is the broadest so far; it aims to improve the lives and health of children and young people and for those needing maternity services by setting standards for local health and council social services, and some education services – to make sure that they are:

- Quicker and easier to use
- More closely matched to individual children and young people's needs
- Better co-ordinated so people do not have to see too many professionals and repeat their story
- Better at involving people in decisions about their care
- Better at achieving good results and outcomes for children and young people
- More like what children and young people and pregnant women say they want

and they:

- Help people to live healthy lifestyles to prevent illness
- Give people more choice in the services they receive including where they receive them from
- Make the safety and protection of children a top priority for everyone

Some of these improvements will start to happen soon as they have been set as targets by the Government, but there are others where it is going to take up to 10 years to reach the standards we are setting out in this National Service Framework.

## What does this National Service Framework cover?

This National Service Framework is made up of three parts.

In Part 1, there are five standards which cover services for all children, young people and parents or carers, wherever they are delivered:

**Standard 1 Promoting Health and Well-being, Identifying Needs and Intervening Early**

**Standard 2 Supporting Parenting**

**Standard 3 Child, Young Person and Family Centred Services**

**Standard 4 Growing Up into Adulthood**

**Standard 5 Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young People**

In Part 2, there are five standards which cover services for children and young people who need more specialised care, treatment or support:

**Standard 6 Children and Young People who are Ill**

**Standard 7 Services for Children and Young People in Hospital**

**Standard 8 Disabled Children and Young People and those with Complex Health Needs**

**Standard 9 The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People**

**Standard 10 Medicines for Children and Young People**

Part 3 is the standard for pregnant women and their partners:

**Standard 11 Maternity Services**



### How will these standards be delivered?

Your local NHS and Council are responsible for reviewing their services to see if they already meet the standards in this National Service Framework. They then need to get local people's views and decide what the local priorities are for making changes and improvements to meet the standards over the next ten years.

## Key messages from the National Service Framework

The standards in this National Service Framework will help the NHS and local councils review and improve their services to:

- Set national standards for the first time for children's health and social care, which promote high quality, women and child-centred services and personalised care that meets the needs of mothers, children and their families;
- Give children, young people and their parents increased information, power and choice over their care and involve them in planning their care and services;
- Prevent ill health and disease by encouraging children and their families to develop healthy lifestyles and to participate in screening and preventive programmes, and by promoting physical health, mental health and emotional well-being;
- Tackle health inequalities and address the particular needs of children and their families who are often at risk of achieving poor outcomes, such as disabled children and children in special circumstances (eg those who have particular difficulties in accessing services, for example, children who are 'looked after' or in care, and those who are homeless);
- Promote the safeguarding of children and ensure all staff are suitably trained and aware of action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare;
- Ensure that pregnant women receive high quality care throughout their pregnancy, are involved in decisions about what's best for them, have choices about how and where they give birth, and have a normal childbirth, with the use of medical intervention only when it is of benefit to mother or baby.





### Where can you get more information?

Further copies of this document are available free from:

**Department of Health**

**PO Box 777**

**London SE1 6XH**

or you could call the **NHS Response Line** on:

**08701555 455**

It is also available on our website: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)





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