Evaluation of the implementation of the NSF for Children Young People and Maternity Services at Chailey Heritage Clinical Services with particular reference to standard 8

Study start date: August 2007  
Completion: January 2009  
Funding: CHCS  
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Background:

The Children's National Service Framework (NSF) for England was published in 2004\(^1\). Its launch has seen the introduction of a national set of clear standards for children's health and social care.

At the centre of the Children's NSF is a big change in the way children's services are planned and delivered – it calls for services to be developed around the needs of the whole child and their family and not around the needs of the service provider.

It has been recognised that in England, the quality of the health and social care services children and their families receive is variable. The NSF for Children aims to address this imbalance and ensure all children, young people and their families receive high quality services, developed around their own needs. The NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services is the Government's ten year plan to improve services for children.

It is one part of the Government's wider programme for change called Every Child Matters: Change for Children. The aim of this programme is to ensure that every child, no matter what their background or circumstances, has the support to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

By 2014, health, social and education services will be expected to have met all the standards set out in the Children's NSF and be providing high quality, child-centred services.

\(^1\) National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, Core Standards. October 2004 DoH.
The Children’s NSF is divided into eleven separate standards which were written in consultation with children, young people and their families. Standard 8 is an individual standard in the Children’s NSF covering the needs of disabled children, young people and their families.

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

“Children and young people who are disabled or who have complex health needs receive co-ordinated, high-quality child and family-centred services which are based on assessed needs, which promote social inclusion and, where possible, which enable them and their families to live ordinary lives”.

The interventions set out in Standard 8 detail the specific services and support needed by children with disabilities and their families and how this should be carried out by health and social care services. Some of the issues covered include: information for families, housing and equipment, therapy services, short term breaks, key workers, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, transition to adult services, transport and leisure and listening to families.

**Aims:**

To examine the extent that Chailey Heritage Clinical Services (CHCS) achieves high-quality accessible services that are focused on the needs of the Child or Young Person and are family centred.

**Objectives:**

- Measure progress towards implementation of NSF standard 8.
- Identify good evidence based practice across a range of services.
- Identify positive changes to service delivery and current practice.

**Key focus:**

- Interface with community (interfaces between CHCS and other Services and Agencies).
- Evidence based practice (quality aspects).
- The standard 8 NSF

**Method:**

The services being evaluated at CHCS:

- The Children’s Head Injury Services (CHIS)
- Finches (short breaks: residential overnight and Home (out reach services)
- Orthopaedic out-patient clinics
- Nursery (deferred)

A comprehensive consultation with those that provide the service, outside agencies, and parents, children and young people that have or currently use the service. This will be carried out by using a range of quantitative and qualitative methods:

- Completion of the Standard 8 Audit Tool\(^2\) (CSIP, Care Service Improvement Partnership)

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\(^2\) CSIP- Care Service Improvement Partnership/DoH) Self Assessment Audit Tool

Focus groups/meetings with staff for completing the audit tool
Focus group with parents identified aspects important to families to be further explored by the family questionnaire.
Family Questionnaire
Interviews with individual children 1 to 1
Outside agency questionnaire

Timescale:
Outcome
CHIS- Completed April 2008
Finches- Completed August 2008
Orthopaedic Outpatient Clinics (6) - Completed December 2008/9
Nursery- Deferred 2008

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