

DEVELOPING THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER IN AN INNOVATIVE BASED PRIMARY CARE SERVICE

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BACKGROUND

Healthy Prestatyn Iach is an innovative NHS primary care service committed to providing the best person-focused experience possible.

Professionals work in small teams caring for specific groups of patients. Each team contains General Practitioners (GPs), Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Occupational Therapists, Pharmacists and a Non-Clinical Coordinator.

The ethos of the service is "**what matters to you?**"

Services are structured to ensure lifestyle and social interventions can be offered as an appropriate alternative to a prescription medication and/or medical interventions where they better meet patient preferences.

A large proportion of the patient population in the area are children and young people. It has previously been highlighted that GP's have little or no formal paediatric training and caring for children and young people can be low on GP's priorities resulting in wide variations in care (Kennedy 2010). This is also the case for ANPs and NPs who are expected to meet the needs of both children and adult.

Healthy Prestatyn Iach introduced the Children's ANP to the service to work as part of the Multi Disciplinary Team to meet the needs of children and young people registered with the service

INTRODUCING THE CHILDRENS ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER

The role of the Children's ANP was initially focussed on minor illness, moving to chronic and complex conditions as the role and needs of the population were identified.

A scoping exercise identified the key community and secondary care services and other professionals working in children's services to enable an integrated and coordinated approach to managing the needs of the child/children and family.

Data from attendance at appointments at the surgery highlighted key areas of healthcare to focus on and the needs of the local population to ensure resources were directed to ensure the best possible outcomes.



RELEVANCE AND IMPACT

The role has shown a positive impact in the following areas:

- Family centered care is provided
- Improved links between the service, Community and Secondary Care Children's and Young People's services
- Reduction in unnecessary referrals and admissions
- Increase in referrals to appropriate teams including CAMHS and Social Services
- Appropriate follow up and review
- Ability to access support for parents/carers in a coordinated and timely manner
- Opportunity for social prescribing
- Ability to provide complete episodes of care for children and young people
- Lead and link for all surgery staff
- Nurse lead for safeguarding
- Completing 6-8 week NIPE and postnatal check



OUTCOME AND DISCUSSION

The role of the Children's ANP in the Primary Care setting has proven to be successful with patients, parents and other professionals, the role will continue to be developed to take on further responsibilities including the 6-8 week new baby check. In addition the Children's ANP will:

- lead the professional development of other staff in the examination of children
- lead the development an audit and research programme focused on child health
- maintain the established links and relationships with community and secondary care paediatric services

Professional feedback

"This role has allowed continuity and holistic care for families with children from the 6 week baby check and postnatal examination to the teenage years"

Parent feedback

"it is great having someone who can relate well to the children and put them at ease. This makes me feel better too"