



3. Successful joint working with Health needs Local Authority colleagues to ...

What: an overview of the key things we need to do to overcome the barriers and make our joint working a success

How: by summarising essential actions that show how you could put this into practice...

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1. Engage Health sector colleagues early ...

HOW?

- Work together with Health when you design your overall Children’s Centre footprint. It is important that you get input to the authority-wide design as well as the design for each centre
- Consult Health colleagues on the design of your building and facilities – ensure health services can really be delivered, hygienically, with sufficient space to accommodate equipment
- Consider the child or family’s “service pathway” from a Children’s Centre, and understand how engagement must start in the antenatal stage to improve outcomes for all

HOW?

- Take the time to understand what actually does happen in PCTs, Acute Trusts and GP Consortia and how that may affect what you do in the Local Authority
- Take time to know who the key people, decision makers and budget holders are in the organisations
- Get a better understanding of local structures at both strategic and operational levels
- Consider more joint roles and secondment opportunities
- Consider your training and professional development programmes alongside those of your partners

2. Improve understanding of each other’s organisations ...

3. Ensure Children’s Health Services have a higher profile ...

HOW?

- Don’t just share targets, develop shared priorities and joint implementation plans as reflected in the CYPP and LAA
- Be an advocate for children’s health issues within the Health and Local Authority communities
- Children’s Health is a “must do” – promote this at all time and support the delivery of health services within Local Authority outlets

HOW?

- Remove the boundaries to information sharing – recognise any Data Protection issues but work to resolve them
- Align your information sharing strategy with that of your partners
- Share your data, analyse the data jointly, and use that data to agree on **joint** local priorities
- Introduce and implement data sharing protocols

4. Improve data sharing...

5. Develop clear and concise guidance together to ensure ownership at all levels

HOW?

- Be clear about how Children's Centres can enable delivery of some key health targets
- Provide a better understanding of the joint commissioning process within your area
- Work with your partners to develop joint/co-branded policies and guidance

HOW?

- Ensure that policy for health and children's services dovetails with national level policies
- Refer to good examples of existing Memoranda of Understanding, and develop your own for your locality
- Make the local governance arrangements within Children's Centres work for your locality and circumstances

6. Ensure better accountability ...