

Who are health visitors and what do they do?

Health visitors provide a vital universal service, working in partnership with families, communities and professionals

Health visitors are advocates for babies, children and families

Who are health visitors?

Registered Nurses or Midwives who have additional registered specialist training in public health

Advocates for families and the community

Innovative workforce embracing evidence-based practice which is inclusive of a skill-mix model



What do health visitors do?

Give every baby the best start in life

Support hundreds of families every week

Provide extra support when families need it the most

Build on families' strengths

Connect families to the right support and find solutions together

Work with all families from pregnancy to 19 years

Build a fairer society

Empower families through health education and promotion



Physical health of the whole family

- Promoting health and wellbeing and health-enhancing activities
- Supporting those parents with a premature or sick baby
- Advising on infant feeding and supporting new parents
- Preconception, antenatal and sexual health advice
- Identifying and managing common childhood illnesses
- Newborn screening
- Promoting and administering immunisations
- Promoting oral health
- Supporting those with complex health conditions and disabilities
- Helping address common and serious problems in the postnatal period
- Promoting healthy lifestyles - smoke-free families
- Promoting safer sleep practices



Emotional health and wellbeing

- Promoting good mental health and wellbeing of the whole family
- Supporting perinatal and infant mental health
- Delivering evidence-based interventions
- Supporting healthy parent-infant and family relationships



Social needs & safeguarding

- Promoting safety and wellbeing of children and families
- Building community connections
- Identifying child protection and safeguarding needs
- Identifying and considering impact of adverse childhood experiences
- Advising on accident prevention
- Working as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Supporting vulnerable families
- Identifying domestic abuse
- Providing support for those misusing alcohol or other substances



Child development

- Child development assessment
- Speech, language and communication
- Behaviour
- Sleep
- School readiness
- Toilet training

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Excellence in Practice

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We are part of an Integrated Care group which allows for collaborative working across all specialisms and professional groups. Our service is universal in reach and personalised in response, and is available to all families with a child between 0-19 on the Isle of Man. Our health visitors work in skill-mix teams, which include school nurses, community staff nurses, nursery nurses and other support staff. We improve Public Health outcomes by aiming to give every child the best start in life and beyond; addressing inequalities, building resilience, narrowing the gap in attainment, and working with our partners to improve outcomes for all babies, children, including vulnerable children, and families.

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Kiarail Vannin

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