Health, income and the role the NHS in Scotland can play in ensuring access to social security

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408 families used the Money and Debt service

£2.3m financial gain (benefits and tax credits)
2015-17

612 pregnant women and families with young children used the Family Friendly Advice Service

£2m financial gain (benefits and tax credits)
2010-16

11103 pregnant women and families with young children used advice services

£11.7m financial gain (benefits and tax credits)
NHS Health Scotland Financial Inclusion Referral Toolkit & Child Poverty, Health and Wellbeing eLearning module


https://elearning.healthscotland.com/course/view.php?id=52
HEALTH VISITORS HOME VISITING PATHWAY
PRE-BIRTH TO PRE-SCHOOL

Pre-Birth
Antenatal Letter

Ante-Natal Contact
Home Visit 32 – 34 weeks

11 – 14 days
New Baby Home Visit

3 – 5 Weeks of Age
2 Home Visits

6 – 8 Weeks of Age
Home Visit

8 Months
Home Visit

6 Months
Review GIRFEC Assessment and confirmation of HPI

4 Months
Home Visit

4 Months
Home Visit

3 Months
Home Visit

13 – 15 Months
Home Visit – Developmental & Wellbeing Review

27 – 30 Months
Home Visit – Developmental & Wellbeing Review

4 - 5 Years Prior to Starting School
Home Visit – Developmental & Wellbeing Review

4 - 5½ Years
Transfer from outgoing Named Person (Health Visitor) to incoming Named Person (e.g. Education)

Health Plan Indicator Definition
An additional HPI indicates that the child (and/or their carer) requires sustained (~3 months) additional input from professional services to help the child attain their health or development potential. Any services may be required such as additional HV support, parenting support, enhanced early learning and childcare, specialist medical input, etc.

Images supplied by NHS Health Scotland
Current Maternity Pathway in Scotland

‘Best Start’ report of the maternity and neonatal services review – new approaches in future
Impact of poverty on child health and wellbeing

The longer a child spends in poverty, the more likely they are to experience...

- Social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties
- Obesity
- Unintentional injuries

The earlier the intervention, the more likely it is to have an impact.
Income matters for child health

........... well evidenced direct and indirect links with children’s outcomes in childhood, especially their social and emotional development

...............important links with cognitive development and educational attainment for children, with long-term consequences for health inequalities as children move into adulthood
Early years, children and young people: What is needed to support a healthy start in life?

- Adequate family income and actions to mitigate impacts of poverty and inequalities
- Strong bonds and positive relationships with caregivers and across schools and communities
- Nurturing approaches to help children heal from adverse experiences
- Safe home, school and neighbourhood environments which enable learning and play
- Involving children and young people in decisions affecting their lives

Find out more about this research on our website:
www.gcphe.co.uk/publications/656_health_and_early_years_children_and_young_people_a_gcphe_synthesis
‘Those children from the most deprived backgrounds are experiencing much worse health compared with the most affluent…..

……more likely to have negative health outcomes, to be born with low birth weight or fail to thrive and be exposed to risks that perpetuate ill health such as poor diet, lack of physical activity, parental drug or alcohol misuse and being in care……..More must be done to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Scotland and to minimise the impact of deprivation on health outcomes.’
Themes

- Food insecurity
- Financial stress and worry
- Homelessness / poor housing
- Poverty exacerbating poor health

‘Poverty makes children sick’
% of children aged 4-12 with borderline/abnormal Strengths and Difficulties scores

Source: Scottish Health Survey, 2012-2015 (pooled data)
% of children aged 2-15 at risk of obesity (BMI ≥ 95th percentile)
Source: Scottish Health Survey, 2012-2015 (pooled data)
In conclusion,

• income does matter to child health
• it ought to be a concern for health professionals that care for children and families
• action can be taken by the NHS to reduce the effects of child poverty and one way is by supporting access to social security through establishing referral pathways between NHS and advice services
• Supportive policy environment in Scotland