

TASKFORCE ON CHILDREN'S PLAY IN HEALTHCARE

An initiative of NHS England and Starlight Children's Foundation, working with the National Association of Health Play Specialists (NAHPS) and the Health Play Specialist Educational Trust (HPSET).

Are you interested in systemic change for children's play in healthcare?

Do you work in or alongside children's play in healthcare? Do you have particular insights, knowledge or experience of this field? Would you like to contribute to a new initiative to explore the issues and make recommendations for change in how the NHS responds to children's right to play, and the role of therapeutic play in children's care and treatment?

Expressions of interest

We are inviting expressions of interest from practitioners, researchers and administrators with particular, in-depth knowledge, skills and experience of children's play in health care, or the contexts in which it is situated.

About the taskforce

This taskforce is an initiative of NHS England and Starlight Children's Foundation, to work with the HPS professional bodies and other relevant agencies to support the development of this important part of the NHS workforce and its wider integration within multi-disciplinary teams. The aim is to develop guidance on health play services for NHS providers, recognised practice standards for those services, and to explore options for improving the infrastructure for accreditation and workforce development.

The intended outcome is that more children will benefit from play services, play opportunities and play-based interventions – of a standard that everyone would



want for them – as part of their treatment and care. The aims for children and families are better patient experiences, reduced trauma, and shorter recovery times.

Workstreams

Three working groups will investigate, research, discuss and develop proposals for the taskforce under the different themes: -

1. Accreditation and professional infrastructure for health play specialists.
2. Guidance (incl. service specifications) and workforce development for health play services.
3. Practice standards for health play services.

The task force is keen to include a range of voices for each of these themes, from the needs and experiences of practitioners on the front-line, to those working in training, administration, leadership or research in the health play and wider children's health service fields.

Time-line and commitment

The Taskforce working groups will meet from January-June 2023. The commitment will be one meeting per month (or as many as you can make), of two hours duration, and to read and comment on papers and draft documents. There is no remuneration and meetings will be via Teams video link.

Under-represented voices welcome

Starlight and NHS England are committed to achieving diversity, equity and inclusion for all. The Taskforce is keen to hear from minority and under-represented voices and actively welcomes expressions of interest from diverse backgrounds. We are also very keen to hear from health play specialists working in smaller play teams, or as the lone play practitioner in a setting.

If you want to be involved ...

Please send us a short statement setting out your relevant experience and expressing why you would like to help, what particular perspectives you can offer, and which of the three workstreams (above) you would like to join.

Email: adrian.voce@starlight.org.uk

Closing date: 19th December

Thank you!



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