

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/03514/10

Your ref:

Helen Mary Jones AM

Chair

Children and Young People Committee

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131
E-Bost: Gohebiaeth.Edwina.Hart@cymru.gsi.gov.uk

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
English Enquiry Line: 0845 010 3300
Fax: 029 2089 8131
E-Mail: Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 October 2010

Dear Helen

Thank you for your letter dated 21 October asking about the National Strategy for Health Visitors and the level of support they provide in supporting new parents.

The Community Nursing Strategy (2009) contains a recommendation to review the role of health visiting in Wales. Implementation of the recommendation is underway. We are working with the heads of the Health Visiting Service to look at the current health visiting workforce, including the range and type of activities staff are engaged with. This work is nearing completion.

Once this work is complete, the next steps are to determine how health visiting should be strengthened to meet population and service requirements. This work will be linked with other relevant activities such as School Nursing, Safeguarding Children, Child Poverty Strategy, Flying Start, and the broader role of nurses in promoting public health across the age spectrum.

The support health visitors give to parents varies dependent upon the needs of the individual and family. The number and frequency of visits and type of support provided is negotiated on an individual basis. For some vulnerable parents this may mean a greater level of engagement, as described through the Flying Start initiative.