

Table 1: Results of documentary and literature review of policy documents and guidelines

Document Title & source	Source	Research or programme cited in report	Type of research	Place research conducted
Healthy Child Programme The two year review (DH and DCSF, 2009)		Health for all children (Hall and Elliman, 2006)	Book (reviews a number of studies relating to HV)	UK
		Health-led parenting interventions (Barlow et al., 2008) -	Evidence synthesis (review of reviews)	UK
		NICE guidance on reducing inequalities in immunisation (NICE, 2009) informed by a number of HV related research studies	Evidence Synthesis (systematic review)	UK
		Nurse Family Partnership	RCT	USA
		Review of home visiting (Kendrick et al., 2000) - Systematic Review	Systematic Review	UK
		Evaluation of development status (Davies and Feeney, 2009) - questionnaire	Questionnaire	UK
		Safeguarding children (Bidmead and Cowley, 2008)	Book	UK
Getting it right for children and families. Maximising the contribution of the health visiting team (DH, 2009a)		Role of health visitor in supporting vulnerable families (Cowley and Bidmead, 2009)	Discussion paper	UK
		Health-led parenting interventions (Barlow et al., 2008)	Evidence synthesis (review of reviews)	UK
		Study of HV intervention for mothers suffering from depression (Morrell et al., 2009)	RCT	UK
		NICE guidance includes recommendations on the role of the health visitor in promoting breastfeeding and healthy eating in young children	Evidence Synthesis (review)	UK

Healthy lives, brighter futures. The strategy for children and young people's health. A commitment from The Children's Plan 2009 (DH, 2009b)		Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
The Protection of Children in England: A progress report. Laming Report (The Stationery Office, 2009)	DH	Parenting programmes (Webster Stratton, Triple P)	specific research not cited in report but there are studies to support these programmes (e.g. Edwards 2001)	UK/USA
		Nurse Family Partnership	RCTs	USA
Transforming Community Services (DH, 2009c)	DH	No relevant research cited		
The child Health Promotion Programme. Pregnancy and the first five years of life (DH and DCSF, 2008)		Review of health-led parenting interventions (Barlow et al., 2008)	Systematic Review	UK
		Nurse Family Partnership	RCTs	USA
		Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
		Solihull approach (parenting programme involving HV)	Report says 'several small studies' but details not given	UK
Breakthrough Britain The Next Generation. A policy report from the Early Years Commission (CSJ, 2008)	CSJ	Parents attitudes towards HV (Gimson, 2007)	Survey	UK
		Nurse Family Partnership	RCTs	USA
		Health for all Children review (includes research related to HV) (Hall and Elliman, 2003) p 101	Book (reviews a number of health visiting related studies)	

		Authors say that 'a significant literature has built up concerning the need to regenerate health visiting (Cowley et al., 2007, Cowley, 2007)	Survey & opinion piece	UK
		Evidence for effective parenting interventions (Barlow, 2008)	Lecture for Association for Infant Mental Health	UK
		European Early Promotion Project - involved universal supportive home visits (Tsiantis et al., 2005)	Non randomised controlled study	European collaboration
		Mellow parenting programme (Puckering, 2004)	Descriptive paper but refers to previous evaluations	UK
NHS Next Stage Review – Final Report 2008 (DH, 2008) NHS Next Stage Review – our vision for primary and community care.	DH	No relevant research cited		
Staying Safe Action Plan 2008 (Every Child Matters)(DCSF, 2008b)	DCSF	No relevant research cited		
The children's Plan - One Year On. December 2008 (DCSF, 2008a)	DCSF	No relevant research cited		
Early Intervention: Good Parents, Great Kids, Better Citizens (Allen and Duncan Smith, 2008)	CSJ	Nurse Family Partnership (US)	RCTs	USA
		Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
Facing the future – A review of the role of health visitors (DH, 2007)	DH	Nurse Family Partnership (US)	RCTs	USA
		Parenting programmes such as Webster-Stratton (Edwards et al., 2007) and Triple-P	RCT, economic analysis	UK, USA
The Children's Plan. Building brighter futures (DCSF, 2007)	DCSF	Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK

Policy review of children and young people – A discussion paper (DES, 2007c)	DES	Parenting programmes such as Triple P (Every family evaluation -- Sanders 2005) and Webster-Stratton	Triple P evaluation – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods. Has been evaluated in RCTs	Australia/USA/UK
		Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
Every Parent Matters (DES, 2007b)	DES	Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
		Nurse Family Partnership (US)	RCTs	USA
		Webster-Stratton parenting programme	specific research not cited in report but there are studies to support these programmes (see Edwards 2001)	
Aiming high for children: supporting families (DES, 2007a)	DES	Family nurse partnership (FNP) (Barnes 2008)	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
Reaching Out: Think Families, (Social Exclusion Task Force) (Cabinet Office, 2007)	Cabinet Office	No relevant research cited		UK
Parenting Support Guidance for local Authorities in England. Every Child Matters Change for Children (DES, 2006a)	DES	Family nurse partnership (FNP) UK pilot study	Pilot study – mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods	UK
		Review of parenting support (Moran et al., 2004)	Evidence synthesis - review	UK
Working together to safeguard children. Every Child Matters (DH, 2006)	DH	No relevant research cited		
National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (DES, 2006b)	DES	No relevant research cited		

National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. Supporting local delivery. Every child matters: change for children in health services (DH, 2004b)	DH	No relevant research cited		
Choosing Health. Making healthy choices easier (DH, 2004a)	DH	Sure Start Children's Centres	No relevant research cited to support programme	
Tackling Health Inequalities A programme for Action (DH, 2003)	DH	No relevant research cited		
Reducing differences in the uptake of immunisations (including targeted vaccines) among children and young people under 19 yrs (NICE, 2009)	NICE	Report on factors influencing immunisation uptake in childhood (Peckham et al., 1989) Number of relevant studies involving HV or conducted by HV (Jackson, 2007, Redsell et al., 2008, Bedford and Lansley, 2006, Bedford et al., 1992, Hilton et al., 2007a, Hilton et al., 2007b, Hilton et al., 2006, Hilton et al., 2007c, Samad et al., 2006, Smailbegovic et al., 2003, Wroe et al., 2005).	Majority are qualitative studies and surveys looking at factors around immunisation uptake	UK
The New Birth Visit (CPHVA, 2008)	CPHVA	Research related to the functions of the new birth visit and the role of the health visitor (Appleton and Cowley, 2003, Cowley, 1995, Mitcheson and Cowley, 2003, Falk-Rafael, 2001, de la Cuesta, 1994, Chalmers, 1994, Chalmers, 1993, Vehvilainen-Julkunen, 1994, Houston and Cowley, 2002)	Generally qualitative, survey and observational	
Improving the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low-income households	NICE	Identified need for intensive HV support (Blair and Hall, 2006)	Commentary	UK
		Studies of dietary education by HV (Childs et al., 1997,	Cohort study	UK

(NICE, 2008)		Griffiths and Poynor, 1995)		
		<p>Reviews on breastfeeding which include some studies relevant to HV (Renfrew et al., 2005, Fairbank et al., 2000)</p> <p>Review of home visiting by HV (Elkan et al., 2000)</p> <p>Review on improving nutrition in young children which includes studies relevant to HV (Tedstone et al., 1998)</p>	Systematic reviews	International literature
Antenatal care – routine care for the healthy pregnant woman (NICE, 2007b)	NICE	<p>Small study on dietary advice by health visitors (Brooke et al., 1980)</p> <p>Small study on intervention delivered by health visitors (Pietrek et al., 1976)</p>	Controlled studies	UK
Antenatal and postnatal mental health (NICE, 2007a)	NICE	No relevant research cited		
Parent-training/education programmes in the management of children with conduct disorders. NICE technology appraisal guidance 102 (NICE, 2006)	NICE	Parenting programmes such as Triple-P, Webster Stratton, The Mellow Parenting Programme	Evidence synthesis of all available research (links to specific studies not given in guidance)	
Core Curriculum for immunisation training (HPA, 2005)	HPA	<p>Factors that affect the uptake of immunisation (Peckham et al., 1989)</p> <p>Role of professional advice in immunisation (Bedford, 1988)</p>	survey	
Health for All Children Revised Fourth Edition (Hall and Elliman,		(Collinson and Cowley, 1998, Appleton, 1997, Cowley and Houston, 2003, King and Appleton, 1997,	Generally observational and reflexive papers (authors say they offer some	UK

2006)		Korfmacher et al., 1999, Knott and Latter, 1999, Baggens, 2001, Larson, 1980, Davis and Spurr, 1998)	insight into characteristics of effective home visits)	
		Nurse Family Partnership (US)	RCTs	USA
		Hard to reach children and families (Barlow et al., 2005)	Qualitative study	UK
Postnatal depression and puerperal psychosis – Guidance 60 (SIGN, 2002)		Counselling for postnatal depression (Holden et al., 1989)	Controlled study	UK

DH = Department of Health, DCSF = Department for children, schools and families, DES = Department for education and skills, CSJ = Department for education and skills, HPA = health protection agency, NICE = National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Table 1 References

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