

Family-Nurse Partnerships within Scotland's Universal Health Visiting Pathway (UHVP)

Aims

The Universal Health Visiting Pathway is Scotland's national home visiting programme for families from the antenatal period to school entry.

The programme focuses on prevention, early identification of need, and targeted support for children and families.

The Family Nurse Partnership Model is a structured programme delivered by nurses and midwives with additional specialist training, aiming to support young and care-experienced first-time mothers.



Responsible organization:
Scottish Government



Country
Scotland

Implementation Highlights

- All routine visits and child health reviews are delivered in the home, enabling assessment and support within the family's home environment.
- Supports meaningful relationships between professionals and families.
- Data-driven programme with regular review of process and outcomes.
- Health visitors receive post-registration training through the Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) qualification.
- Dedicated training provided for Family Nurses using a trauma-informed approach.
- Intensive support from early pregnancy until children reach age two.
- Ongoing holistic assessments of child and family needs including child and parental health, living circumstances, health behaviours, and wider determinants of health.
- Based on recent evaluation, the health visiting action plan 2025 to 2035 will enhance the delivery of the existing programme, focusing on workforce development and capacity with a clear role for health visitors integrated into wider support services, as well as strategic prioritisation of the programme.



What makes this an innovative practice?

Impact: does it work?

Effectiveness and efficiency

Evaluation demonstrates parents developed trusting relationships with health visitors, while professionals felt they were able to identify developmental concerns at an early age.

Evidence Base

Data-driven approach, with evaluations informing ongoing improvements to the programme.

Reach: who can benefit?

Equity and access

Universal support is available via the health visiting pathway, while the family-nurse partnership model offers intensive support to vulnerable families.

Transferability and scalability

The family-nurse partnership model has been used across different countries and scaled up over an eight-year period.

References and additional tools to favour translation

- Scottish Government. Universal Health Visiting Pathway Evaluation - Phase 1: Main Report - Primary Research with Health Visitors and Parents and Case Note Review. 2021. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/evaluation-universal-health-visiting-pathway-scotland-phase-1-main-report-primary-research-health-visitors-parents-case-note-review>
- Scottish Government. Universal Health Visiting Pathway. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/maternal-and-child-health/health-visiting/>
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- Scottish Government. Family Nurse Partnership: 10 year analysis. 2022. Available from: [Family Nurse Partnership: 10 year analysis - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/family-nurse-partnership-10-year-analysis/)