

Medical Needs Policy Changes (DfE) – WEBINAR

Supporting children and young people with medical
conditions and allergy NEW PROPOSED GUIDANCE

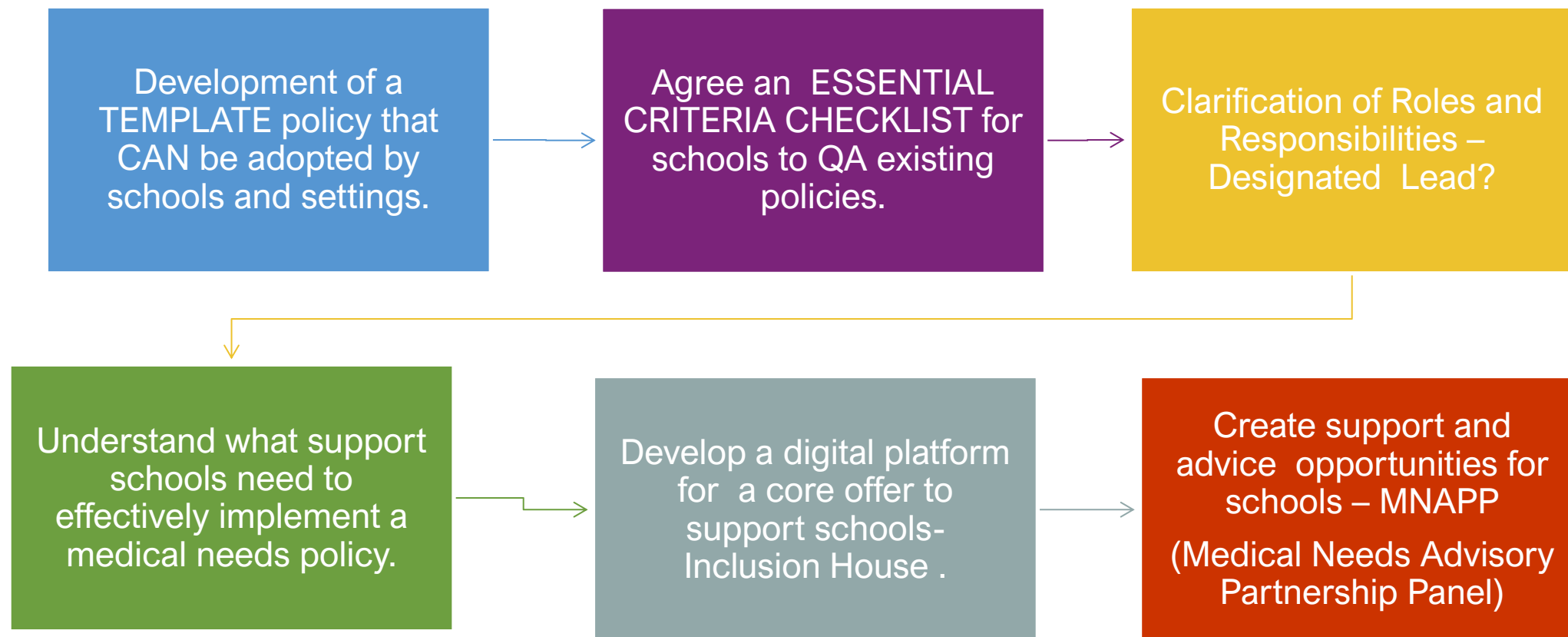
By Amanda Wiser



Agenda

1. Six Key areas of change
2. Inclusion House support
3. School Nursing Support
4. Survey Link and further advice and support planned.

Local Area Partnership – overview of activity



Big picture (what's actually changing)

From **September 2026**, the Department for Education will **replace the 2015 statutory guidance** *Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school* with **new, strengthened statutory guidance** titled:

“Supporting children and young people with medical conditions and allergy”

This is not optional guidance – it **strengthens the legal expectations under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014** and standardises practice nationally. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk),

Benedict's Law places allergy safety at the heart of school responsibility, requiring clear prevention, staff training and emergency response arrangements for pupils at risk of anaphylaxis.”

1. Medical needs policy: stronger, clearer, more accountable

What changes

- Schools **must** have:
- A **published medical conditions policy**

Named ownership by:

- **a senior leader**
- a governor

Annual review as a minimum

- Clear arrangements for how pupils with medical needs are supported
- This goes beyond the current position where policies exist but vary widely in quality and oversight. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk),

• What's different from now

- Governance accountability is explicit (no “policy on the website but nobody owns it”)
- Medical arrangements are expected to link to **risk registers** and safeguarding systems
- Serious incidents or **near misses must trigger review**, not wait for an annual cycle.

2.DHL Designated Health Lead

- The Designated Health Lead (DHL) is a senior role ensuring schools meet statutory duties for pupils with medical conditions and allergies. This role enhances accountability, compliance, and inclusive health support in schools.
- The DHL oversees medical policies, Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs), staff training, and incident management, acting as a key liaison with families, health services, and local authorities.
- The role aligns with Ofsted, governance, and local authority requirements, providing clear leadership, assurance, and consistency across schools.
- Birmingham City Council endorses this role as a minimum standard to strengthen safeguarding, SEND, and attendance duties, adaptable by school size or cluster arrangements.

3. A Separate, Mandatory Allergy Safety Policy

What's new

For the **first time**, schools must have **two distinct policies**:

Medical Conditions Policy

Allergy Safety Policy (published and reviewed)

The allergy policy must specifically address:

Allergen identification and avoidance

Food safety arrangements

Emergency response to anaphylaxis

Use and storage of adrenaline auto-injectors

Staff training

Incident and near-miss recording.

• Why this matters

- This implements **Benedict's Law**, announced in March 2026, following fatal anaphylaxis cases in schools.
- By September School must have procedures in place including risk registers and training logs for all staff.

4. Much stronger expectations around Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

What changes

The revised guidance significantly **widens when an IHP is expected**. An IHP should now be in place for pupils who:

- Require medication in school
- Have a known allergy requiring active management
- *Have a condition that amounts to a disability (Equality Act 2010)*
- Need reasonable adjustments to access education

Content expectations (stronger than before)

- IHPs must be more detailed and include:
- Clear arrangements and responsibilities
- Emergency procedures
- Condition-specific information (e.g. seizure response, hypo/hyperglycaemia)
- Links to clinical action plans where relevant (especially allergies).

5. Mandatory training expectations (not just “where appropriate”)

The guidance moves away from vague wording and expects:

- **All staff** to have allergy awareness training
- Key staff to be trained in:
 - medication administration
 - emergency response
 - condition-specific support where required

What Changes

- This addresses evidence that untrained staff are currently delivering complex medical care in schools.
- Further detailed guidance will be produced for schools around health tasks in school settings.
- Birmingham is already looking at developing a framework for competency and work is being undertaken already to address this issue.

6. Formal incident and near-miss reporting

New expectations include:

- **Systematic recording** of medical incidents and near misses
- Learning from incidents (not just recording them)
- Policy and practice review following serious events
- This brings medical needs closer to safeguarding-style accountability.

What Changes

- Birmingham will be publishing template policies to support the new guidance
- Birmingham will produce a range of templates and training material in collaboration with our Health partners to support this systematic recording – this will be published on the inclusion house window

What has *not* changed.

- Schools are **not expected to make clinical decisions**
- Staff are **not required to administer medication without training**
- Health services still retain responsibility for diagnosis and clinical plans
- Section 100 duties remain the legal basis – the guidance clarifies and tightens expectations rather than creating a new Act.

BIRMINGHAM'S INCLUSION HOUSE

Belong • Matter • Thrive • Inclusion for Everyone, Every Day



EVERY LEARNER
IS AT THE HEART
OF OUR WORK



WE ARE
AMBITIOUS FOR
EVERY LEARNER



WE SUPPORT
THROUGH STRONG
PARTNERSHIPS



WE ARE
RELATIONSHIP-BASED
& RESTORATIVE



Ordinarily Available
Guidance (OAG)



Inclusive Pathway
(Alternative Provision)



Curriculum Pathways



Medical Needs



Transition



Special Educational
Needs



Autism-friendly

WELCOME



Wellbeing and Resilience



Attendance

More Windows Coming
Soon



English as an Additional
Language

Safeguarding

Safeguarding

Safeguarding



Birmingham's Inclusion House

What do I need?

WELCOME
Belong • Matter • Thrive



Medical Needs Digital Library



Showcases from our Schools and Settings

- Real examples of inclusive practice in action
- Videos, case studies and summaries
- Links to 'window' area principles and strategies



Guidance and Publications

- Core documents and materials related to 'window' offer
- Research summaries and evidence briefings
- National and local guidance (DfE, Local Area, etc.)



Strategic Implementation

- Tools to introduce and embed inclusive practice
- Reflection and self-evaluation resources
- Planning frameworks and implementation journeys



Classroom Resources

- Practical strategies and tools for everyday use
- Templates, checklists and planning supports
- Ready-to-use classroom resources



Workforce Training and Development

- CPD materials and training resources
- Workshop and webinar recordings
- Online learning opportunities



Parent Carer and Family Resources

- Information to support partnership working
- Guides and accessible information
- Resources to explain inclusive practice

Who delivers our service?



The school nursing teams are led by clinical team lead a range of professionals.

These include school nurses (who are specialist public health nurses), staff nurses, school nurse assistants, and team administrators.

South Central School Nurse Team

Lansdowne Health Centre
34 Lansdowne St
Birmingham
B18 7EE

• [0121 245 5750](tel:01212455750)

• BCHNT.southcentralsnteam@nhs.net

• **Team Leader:** Mandip Panesar

North East School Nurse Team

Hob Moor Road Health Centre
192 Hob Moor Road
Birmingham
B10 9JH

• [0121 466 6565](tel:01214666565)

• BCHNT.northeastsnteam@nhs.net

• **Team Leader:** Sam Parry

Website: <https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/school-health-support-service>



How do children and their families access the service?

- Referral led service – self referral, school staff referral or practitioner referral
- Duty (single point of access) – email and telephone
- Access via Chat Health (texting service)
- Attend Anywhere (Virtual drop-in service)





Birmingham School Health Support Service

We are commissioned to deliver a service with the summary outcomes for the School Health Support Service becomes:

Children & Young People can Attend, Engage, and Achieve

Service focuses on:

Partnership Agreements

National Childhood measurement programme

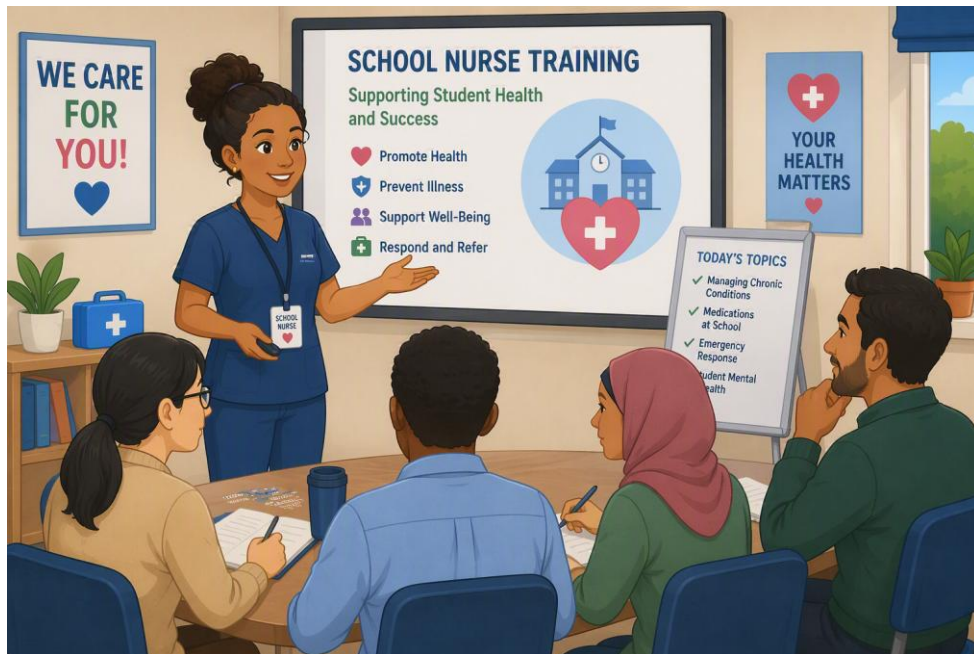
Medical needs care plan

Referral for support – generic and all referrals

Health related absence

Medical Needs training

Safeguarding



Service Offer...

Medical Needs Training:

All schools are offered Medical needs training on:

Asthma

Anaphylaxis

Diabetes

Epilepsy

Buccal midazolam (if prescribed)

Medical Needs Care plans

Children with medical needs that require medication in school for emergencies or to be safe in school are offered a care plan to be followed by school staff.

Specialist conditions often are completed by hospital staff due to their complex nature but school nurses advocate for parents or liaison with the MDT to complete these.



Chat Health & Attend Anywhere

Birmingham
Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

ChatHealth

Do you know where I can get some health advice?

The School Health Support Service can help students with all kind of things like...

Relationships, mental health, alcohol, bullying, self-harm, smoking, drugs and healthy eating.

Text the School Nurse for confidential advice and support on 07480635485

We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a member of school staff or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). Prevent the school nurse from sending messages to you by texting STOP to our number. Please respect your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rate.

 Best Care
Healthy Communities

For design/print enquiries email: creative.hub@bchc.org
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 Birmingham
Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

School Nurse Virtual Drop-in Clinic

Birmingham School Health Support Service

**Every Tuesday and Thursday
from 4:30-5:30pm**

Your School Nurse is here to help you feel healthy, happy and safe, so you can get the best out of school life and your education.

You can chat confidentially with a School Nurse or, for parents, about your child (ages 5-19).

Just scan the QR code or visit the link below to get started.

<https://nhs.uk/BCHC/C-F/Schl-Nurse/Drop-In>



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Healthy Communities

 attendanywhere®

For design and print enquiries email: creative.hub@bchc.net • Correct at time of printing: 20 October 2025 • Ref: 01136V1

Survey Link



[Birmingham Medical Needs & Allergy Readiness Survey \(2026\) – Fill in form](#)