

Looking After Children in Primary Care: A Companion to the Children's National Service Framework. Edited by Ruth Chambers and Kirsty Licence. Radcliffe Publishing Ltd, Oxford US. 2005. £24.95 (paperback). 204 pp. ISBN 1-857-75888-9.

This book is a companion to the children's National Service Framework (NSF), enabling those that work within the NHS, social care, and education to put the NSF into practice in primary care.

There are 18 chapters, written around the themes and priorities for primary care in the NSF. Each chapter is written by authors who chaired or participated in the NSF working groups. The chapters are excellently written and well referenced. Examples and scenarios are contained in boxes, making them easy to refer to.

Chapter 1 gives an overview of the children's NSF and a vision of how implementation will occur. The appendix at the back of the book outlines the various standards and visions of the NSF. The following two chapters discuss involving children and young people in the organization of care and how to create a child-friendly environment. Although the discussion centres on primary health care, it can easily be translated to other health-care settings. The authors discuss the results of enquiries with young patients as to what they want from health care and how they would like to be treated and then goes on to discuss how to make the health-care environment accessible, user-friendly, informative, and safe for children.

Chapter 4 covers referring to others in primary care and discusses issues including consent and confidentiality. Family-oriented care is also examined with examples of families who access many different services and for whom further referrals may create barriers or complicate matters. The following two chapters highlight issues of working with and supporting parents. The impact of parenting style and catering for different groups is discussed as well as how to support parents of children accessing health care.

Chapter 7 discusses the links between health and education priorities through the National Healthy School Standard. One of these aims is to reduce health inequalities. The chapter discusses engaging with schools to promote healthy eating, physical activity, good emotional health, reducing obesity, and drug and sex education. Examples of good practice are highlighted in this chapter.

Chapter 8 discusses the evidence for promoting a healthy diet and physical activity for children and

young people. This chapter includes data on sugar consumption and oral health, as well as the impact poor dental health has on a child's well-being and education. Dietary recommendations for improving children's oral health are listed.

The following five chapters discuss promoting good mental health in children, effective care for pregnant teenagers, evidence for reducing unintentional injury in children, immunization, and child surveillance.

Chapters 15 and 16 cover health-care issues of disabled children and those in special circumstances. The issues addressed include promoting social inclusion, support for families, transition to adulthood, commissioning services, and training of staff. Care for children in special circumstances includes those in local authority and foster care, homeless children, those in secure accommodation, children not in school, and those who have been abused. The difficulty of these children accessing dental services is highlighted.

Chapter 17 discusses what to do regarding child abuse. It gives some useful facts and figures and outlines health professionals' responsibilities. Part of this chapter discusses the case of Victoria Climbié and the relevance of the subsequent inquiry to primary care.

The final chapter looks at young people's own perspectives in relation to health. It explores issues that are important to young people and highlights areas where more targeted care could be given.

Although this book is primarily aimed at primary health-care practitioners and managers in primary care, anyone with an interest in or responsibility for the care of children will find this book invaluable. It gives an informative overview of the themes and goals of the National Services framework for children and would be a useful guide for paediatric dentists working in primary care, hospital, or academic settings.

E. A. O'SULLIVAN
Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry
Eastern Hull PCT,
Hull, UK

The GP's Guide to Personal Development Plans (Radcliffe Professional Development Series), 2nd edn. By Amar Rughani. Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxford. 153 pp.

This new edition by Amar Rughani has been updated and expanded and has already been widely praised by the medical press.

The personal development plan (PDP) is simply a mechanism for establishing our educational needs and from this we can evaluate the success of our plans and evaluate them.

This excellent book is very readable and relevant, the reader is gently led to overcome any anxieties about preparing a portfolio, and each chapter leads on to the next level seamlessly.

Although this book is aimed at and written for general medical practitioners, the concept is entirely relevant for the whole medical team. All the examples are medical but they are just examples and can easily be adapted to dental scenarios.

There are some interesting ideas that can help the newly qualified, and examples are PUNS and DENS.

These are acronyms for patients' unmet needs and doctors'/dentists' educational needs. This concept is important because lack of experience can mean that our patients are not receiving ideal treatment because the practitioner is simply not aware of the various treatment options.

Amar also describes significant event analyses (SEAs) and how they can help us develop.

SEAs can be examples of things that go significantly right as well as significantly wrong.

He goes on to show how we can use these events to allow whole patient care by discussing this with practice members.

These PDP's have been used in our vocational training schemes for many years and they have evolved and have become a very useful tool for reflection and learning for the individual and the trainers and scheme advisors.

The day must come soon when all doctors and dentists are required to keep a PDP, instead of mere records of lectures attended and books and magazines read.

I can thoroughly recommend this book to all health-care workers and I am sure that all new dental graduates would benefit from reading this book before starting their PDP's for their VT year.

As a scheme advisor for a London VT scheme, I have found much useful information that I will use and refer to for much of the year ahead.

GRAHAM DINDOL
BC^{hd} MFGDP
Advisor East London and City VTS
UK

Holistic Oral Care, A Guide for Health Professionals. By Janet Griffiths & Steve Boyle. Stephen Hancocks Ltd.

At last, a book that does exactly as it says on the cover! The authors capture the reader from the outset. It opens by explaining how to use the guide and it is precisely that, a guide that leads you through the principles of oral health care. It clearly tells you that dental disease is the world's commonest disease and that it is preventable. The book is extremely well illustrated with good clear colour photographs showing periodontal disease, dental decay, and other familiar conditions encountered by dental professionals. The terminology that is commonly used in the clinics is introduced in such a way that, even if you have never previously heard the word it becomes clear in the context and is often supported by an explanation and example.

The book is aimed at people who support others in their daily living. It is designed to give practical advice without being prescriptive or dogmatic and tells the reader how to care for the mouth using proprietary devices and aids. It gives you the permission to be inventive and to develop methods of oral hygiene that encourage oral cleanliness and plaque removal.

The guide teaches the nurse and carer to be diligent in assessing the dental condition and ensure that the teeth, any dental appliance, and other surrounding tissues are cared for as part of the daily routine of whole health care. It reminds you that dental disease has been linked to other debilitating illnesses and that healthy mouth promotes a healthier lifestyle and an increased feeling of well-being and improves social acceptance.

The book is excellent in its discussion of disability and impairment. It gives an insight into how disability is viewed from a global aspect, from a government perspective and from an individual's viewpoint. This is followed by some descriptions of commonly occurring illnesses that are seen in childhood and how these affect dental development and subsequent dental health problems. It goes on to describe adult systemic conditions that have an influence on dental disease processes. The reader is then introduced to acquired disease that has an impact on oral health and gives practical advice on how to deal with its consequences.

It is an easy guide to read and will form an excellent reference book that can be used over and over again to give the owner a valuable tool for the per-

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