

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.

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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.

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