

Delivering a robust health visiting service to homeless families



Learning outcomes

To gain an overview of the role

To explore the issues facing homeless families

To understand the challenges in addressing complex unmet health needs

To give an insight into the family journey

To demonstrate positive outcomes



My career



Growing Up



Is this a picture of homelessness?



Why families become homeless

End of tenancy

Financial problems

Loss of job

Divorce/separation

Violent relationship breakdown

Dispute

Emergency (fire/flood/storm)

The average house price in 1971 was £5,600

2011 was £245,300



Priority groups for emergency housing.

Families with children (In full time education)

Expectant mothers

Homeless due to violence or harassment

Care leavers aged 18-21

Vulnerable adults

16-17 and non entitled to social care support



Wolverhampton's emergency accommodation

6 refuges

2 hostels

1 B&B

1 guest house

1 safe house

Over 60 allocated properties across the
city (owned by local council)

Hotel (occasionally used)



The Wolverhampton picture



Has a population of 252,000

450 children per year are part of a homeless household

Deprivation is higher than average

There is a higher than average infant mortality rate

There is a lower than average life expectancy



Family life

Homelessness and domestic abuse are life changing events and can happen to anyone



Hostel living



The Royal Wolverhampton **NHS**

Trust



Challenges (for clients)

- Lack of space
 - Limited safe play areas
 - Noise 
 - Social isolation
 - Financial instability
 - Bed sharing
 - Communal living
- Accident risks
 - Frustration
 - Developmental delay
 - Conflict
 - Mental illness
 - Lack of food
 - Safety issues
 - Infection risk

Package of care

Health visitors currently deliver the healthy child programme which is adopted as the universal minimal care programme to enable children to reach their potential.

5 core contacts include:

Antenatal contact

New birth visit

6-8 week review

9-12 month review

2-2.5 year review



Specific package of care

Initial visit (holistic health and social care assessment)

Follow up visits at 1-2 month intervals

“New home” visit prior to handover



Key health topics

GP and dental registration

Immunisations

Nutrition (breast feeding support) and growth

Maternal mental health

Developmental progress

Managing minor illness

Reducing injury from unintentional accidents

Supporting parenting/attachment

Support with nursery and school application

Signposting to appropriate services



Initiatives

Oral health promotion

Fire safety referral scheme

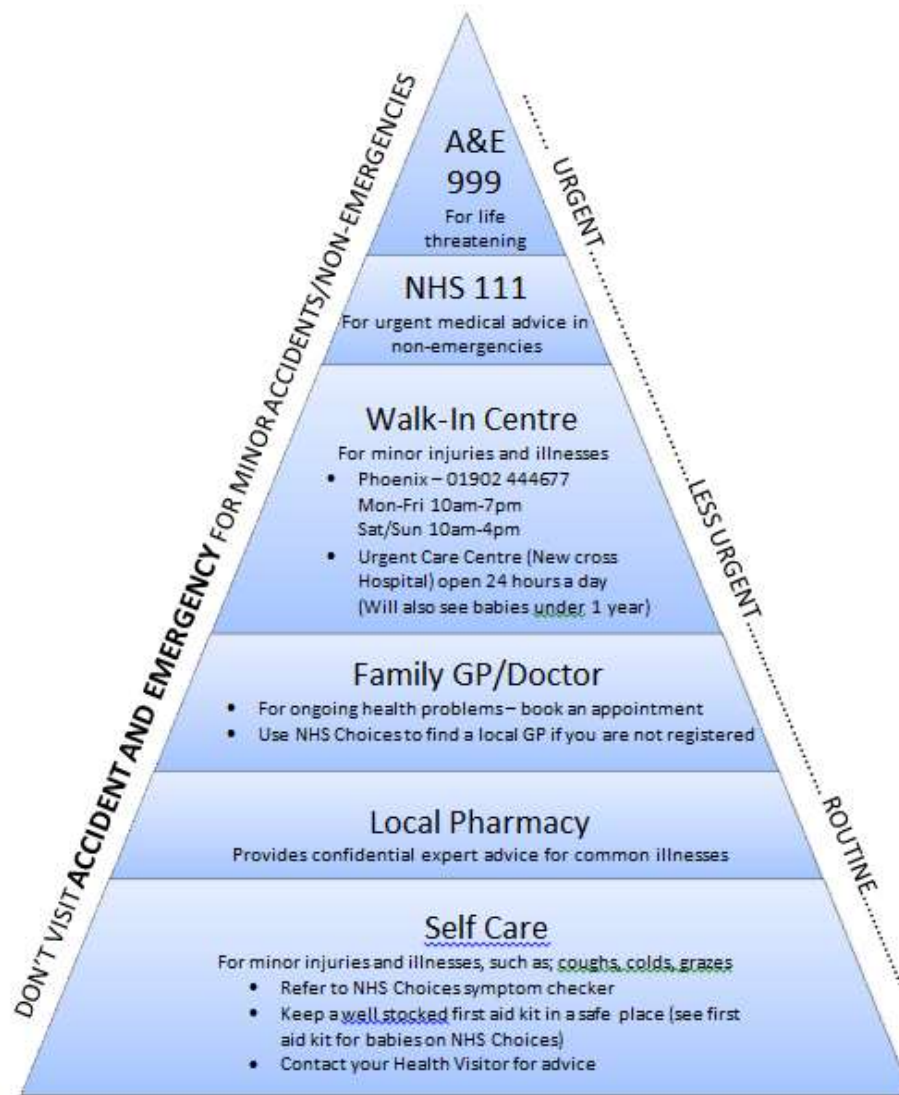
Toddler treatment triangle

Home safety event

Baby play mat project



Toddler Treatment Triangle



If you need advice about your infant's health, use the triangle to help you prioritise their health needs and assess the most appropriate services. Most parents can be supported by community services: Health Visitor/Pharmacy/GP rather than attending A&E.

Think Toddler Treatment Triangle



Baby play mat project

- To promote safe and clean floor play



- 40 play mats
- 0-8 months of age
- Tummy time leaflet
- Assessment of development
- Evaluation

Baby play mat-outcomes

No incidents of babies rolling off the bed!

Reduced parental anxiety

Improved gross motor skills

Increased parent/child interaction

Baby enjoys floor play and is happy

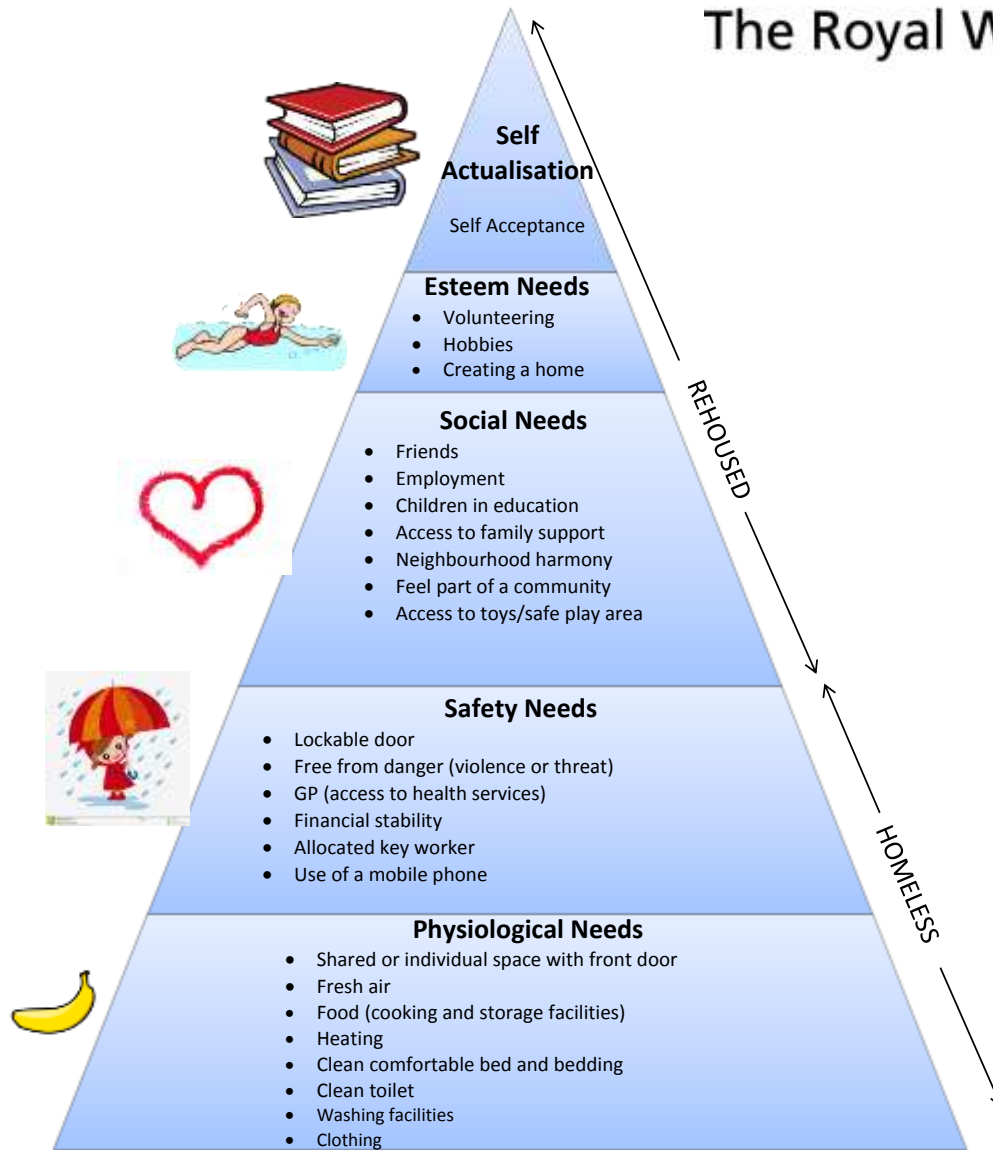
Visual stimulation

Stimulation of fine motor and personal/social skills

Increased play opportunities



Hierarchy of needs and homelessness



In pursuit of happiness



Poem entitled “Hope”



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