

**Title: Developing a borough wide asthma school network through identification and support for symptomatic children: The Hillingdon approach.**

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**Aims:** To improve the management of children with asthma throughout Hillingdon borough through a system of early recognition of symptomatic children at school.

**Methods:** The Hillingdon Children's Asthma Team (HCAT) (two integrated respiratory nurse specialists who work across primary and secondary care), school welfare assistants from each school, and school nursing team (patch based, covering multiple schools) established a system of monthly monitoring of symptomatic children at school in September 2017. School welfare assistants complete a monthly return of children to HCAT, detailing school absence due to asthma and/or inhaler use. HCAT then alert the school nurses of children who meet the threshold for action: three or more days absence in any one month, absences in more than one month in any three month period, and inhaler use four or more times in a month. The school nurse then works with the family to address asthma control, which may include direct education and training with the family, referral to the GP or referral to HCAT.

**Results:** Since September 2017, participation with monthly returns has increased from 39/111 (35%) to 79/111 (71%) in November 2018. During this period 1064 children were identified as having an asthma related absence from school, of whom 348 had absences lasting 3 or more days, or more than one absence in any three month period. 503 children were identified as using their inhaler four or more times in any one month. This resulted in 780 children\* being referred to the school nurses service, of whom 61 were referred to HCAT.

**Conclusion:** Systematic early detection of symptomatic children with asthma at school is feasible at a borough wide level and leads to early interventions to improve asthma control. Further research to explore the scalability and impact on morbidity and mortality is required.

\*Further analysis on outcomes for each child to be presented by poster