**Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service**

**8th floor, Seax House**

**Victoria Road South**

**Chelmsford**

**CM1 1QH**

t: 0300 247 0014

Date: 14/12/2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Academic Year 2020-21 - Height and weight checks for children in Year 6**

Measuring the height and weight of children in Year 6 is part of Public Health England’s National Child Measurement Programme. Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service is contracted by Essex County Council, on behalf of Public Health England, to undertake these checks in your child’s school.

Our Healthy Family Support Assistants will be visiting your child’s school at the beginning of next term to undertake these measurements. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes. All our staff have undergone Safeguarding Children training and are Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) cleared and all staff will be wearing full PPE whilst measuring children. After every child has been screened all equipment will be cleaned and staff will wash their hands regularly.

All information we capture is treated confidentially and is held securely by us. It will not be shared with your child’s school or with other children.

The information collected by us includes your child’s height and weight together with their name, date of birth, gender, home address, postcode, NHS Number and ethnicity. We store your child’s information on their pre-existing local electronic health record, which is shared with their GP and NHS Digital. NHS Digital is responsible for collecting all information relating to all the national public health programmes to help understand more about the health of the nation and how the NHS and Social Care services can improve care provided to people across England.

Once completed, you are very welcome to request a copy of your child’s measurements for your own records. If your child’s measurements are within the expected parameters you will not hear from us. If your child is outside the expected parameters, we will contact you to discuss services available in your local area.

Please be assured that the information collected about your child will be shared by NHS Digital with Public Health England in a de-personalised form only. This means Public Health England will not be able to identify your child. Public Health England is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation’s health.

Both NHS Digital and Public Health England will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI). This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital may link your child’s current and previous height and weight measurements. It may also link their measurements with other information it holds about your child such as their dental survey results or the reasons for any visits they may have made to hospital. Linking your child’s information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme may also be shared by NHS Digital with other organisations, such as universities. This is to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. This information cannot be used to identify your child, and NHS Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.

**Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme**

**If you are happy** for your child to be measured you do not need to do anything.

**If you** **do not** want your child to take part, or if you have any questions, please contact us within the next seven days on the above number. Children will not be made to take part if they do not want to.

If for any reason the child cannot make the initial appointment, another will be arranged at a later date.

**Feedback**

We have included our website address: www.virgincare.co.uk/feedback which will take you directly to our Friends and Family feedback website where you will be able to feedback your thoughts and comments on our service, please use service code E0003.

Yours sincerely,

*Zoe Oddy & Elizabeth Kingsford,* NCMP Portfolio Leads

**Further information, which you might find useful**

1. Further information about our services can be found at:
[www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk](http://www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/)
2. Further information about the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at:
[www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme)
3. Information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy can be found at:
[www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)
4. Information about how NHS Digital and Public Health England collect and use information can be found at:
[www.digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information](http://www.digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information)
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/personal-information-charter](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/personal-information-charter)
5. Information about organisations NHS Digital receives National Child Measurement Programme information from can be found at:
[www.digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme/)