

July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

## IMPORTANT: INFORMATION ABOUT YOU CHILD'S HEALTH & WELLBEING

Every year thousands of children across the county who are in Year 6 take part in an online health assessment called The Lancaster Model (TLM). This is a chance for them to think about their health & wellbeing. This letter explains more about The Lancaster Model, about how you will give consent for them to do the assessment, and how your child can benefit.

### The Lancaster Model (TLM)

TLM is an online questionnaire and is a way of identifying any early health and wellbeing needs your child may have – as well as wider trends so we can plan what services or support will be needed for children in the future. Then the Public Health School Nursing team and other services can offer help if they need to. Most parents and carers find it reassuring to know something can be picked up early before it becomes a problem.

### How your child can benefit

We believe that the first step to knowing if children are struggling is to ask them. In Hertfordshire all Year 6 children will be given the opportunity to complete the questionnaire in school. It asks them about things that might affect their health, such as lifestyle, emotional wellbeing, and moving to secondary school. If it shows your child might benefit from some additional support from the School Nursing team, we will then contact you to discuss further.

### Explaining TLM to your child

You don't need to tell your child anything. Your school and School Nurses will explain everything to them when they visit. However, we do recommend you watch a three-minute video via this YouTube link, <https://youtu.be/nwfS5kc8u14> (children can watch too). You can also find more information about TLM on our website [www.hct.nhs](http://www.hct.nhs) (type 'The Lancaster Model' in the search bar in the top right-hand corner) so you are clear about the process and can answer any questions you may have.

### Giving consent

This year we are contacting parents and carers early, so you have more time to consider consent and get further information if needed. If you are happy for your child to take part in the TLM questionnaire **you do not need to do anything**. If you are unsure or do not want your child to take part, please contact the school nurse team (details below).

0300 123 7572

[www.hertsfamilycentres.org](http://www.hertsfamilycentres.org)



If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for your child to take part. If your child does not want to take part they can also opt out on the day.

## GDPR

Although anonymous information may be shared (for example information about lifestyle choices and behaviour) with other agencies to improve services, all personal information collected from this questionnaire will be treated as confidential and held securely to meet with data protection requirements. Information regarding how this data is stored by Hertfordshire Community NHS trust can be found on our website, [www.hct.nhs](http://www.hct.nhs) (type 'Data Protection' in the search bar in the top right hand corner).

We hope you will give your child this opportunity to have their voice heard and help us to plan future healthcare. If you have any concerns or would like to talk to someone, please contact the School Nurse Team. If you would like to take part in a webinar, over the summer, to ask further questions about the process, please register your interest by emailing:

[hct.sneb@nhs.net](mailto:hct.sneb@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely

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*The Public Health Nurses work closely with other health professionals and relevant information will be shared.*

