

The health visiting service in Bradford and Airedale is available universally to all families from the ante-natal period up until the child commences school.

Health visitors are trained nurses who have had specialist training in child health and development. This knowledge helps support parents, carers and communities in areas such as becoming a parent, behaviour management, breast feeding, nutrition, maternal mental health and community support. Health Visitors also have specialist knowledge in safeguarding, with the aim of preventing harm and protecting and promoting well-being.

The health visitor's role is to support parents and carers on their parenting journey. From preparing to become parents and giving birth, through their child's stages of development to starting school. They can provide expert advice and guidance to support parents in developing parenting skills which will help children to develop in a safe and healthy way.

There are approximately 163 full and part time health visitors and 39 full and part time community nurse nurses working in Bradford and Airedale at this time and they are split into 7 clusters across the district.

Health visitors work in teams alongside community nursery nurses to provide a service in the communities that they are based. They do this by home visiting and also providing drop in well baby clinics for parents to attend as and when they need support/advice. Health visitors also work closely alongside other services such as GP's, children's centres, midwifery, mental health services, Acute Trusts and voluntary agencies to provide integrated care to families, developing a team around the child approach to best support family's needs.