



Department for Education

Georgia Gould OBE MP
Minister for School Standards

Helen Hayes MP
Chair, Education Select Committee
By email: educom@parliament.uk

2 February 2026

Dear Helen,

The concerns raised with the Education Select Committee in July 2025 concerning the delegation of healthcare tasks to staff in schools, colleges and early years settings are important ones.

Education settings (schools, colleges and EY settings) have responsibilities to keep children and young people safe and to ensure that those with disabilities (which may arise from a medical condition) are not discriminated against by provisions, practice or criteria. State-funded schools are subject to specific duties to “make arrangements” to support pupils with medical conditions.

The NHS is responsible for meeting the health needs of people diagnosed with an illness or medical condition including long term conditions. Where a child or young person requires a healthcare task prescribed by a registered healthcare professional, the NHS is responsible for that provision, regardless of who delivers it and whether the child or young person is at home, in education, or travelling to and from education.

The regulatory arrangements for healthcare professionals permit the “*transfer to a competent individual, of the authority to perform a specific task in a specified situation*”.¹ This provides for them to delegate the delivery of healthcare tasks – where it is safe and reasonable to do so. However, where delivery of a healthcare task is delegated, **accountability for the healthcare task remains with the registered healthcare professional**, who is responsible for ensuring:

- Any risks associated with delegating the healthcare task (whether to the child or young person or to others) are identified and mitigated.
- Tasks and duties are only delegated where they are within the other person’s scope of competence, and they fully understand their instructions,
- Anyone delegated to is adequately supervised and supported so they can provide safe and compassionate care,
- The outcome of any delegated task meets the required standard.

As the former Minister McKinnell told the Committee, the Department has been

¹ The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) [Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates](https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/code/) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) [Standards of conduct, performance and ethics](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics) both include a regulatory standard requiring registrants to delegate only when they are satisfied that the other person is competent to carry out the delegated task safely, and require the healthcare practitioner to supervise and support those who are delegated to.

working jointly with DHSC and NHS England to develop non-statutory guidance to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of healthcare professionals, local authorities and education providers. The process has been lengthy given the complexity of the issues, the need for legal scrutiny and the complexity of the issues which have been raised with us.

We will shortly share a draft of the guidance with key stakeholders (including professional associations, regulatory bodies and other interested parties) ahead of publication later in the spring. I would also like to provide the opportunity for you to see and discuss the draft with officials so we can take account for your views on behalf of the Committee.

As you will know, it is our intention to consult on revised statutory guidance on [Supporting pupils with medical conditions](#). This will set out clear expectations for how schools should fulfil their statutory duties and deliver a culture where pupils with medical conditions (including allergy) are not only supported but fully included in school life.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia Gould".

Georgia Gould OBE MP
Minister for School Standards