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Northamptonshire Manifesto for the 1001 Critical Days

Our Vision

We share the vision published in the Cross-Party Manifesto which is as follows -

“A radical change is required to our approach to the 1001 Critical Days.

Our goal is for every baby to receive sensitive, appropriate and responsive care from their main caregivers in the first years of life. Parents need to feel confident that they are raising their children in a loving and supportive environment.

A holistic approach to all ante, peri (around 20th week of pregnancy to around the 28th day of life) and postnatal services would enable seamless access for all families. This includes Midwives, Health Visitors, GPs, and Children’s Centres, and services should engage with families as soon as possible – ideally during pregnancy. The contacts that all parents have with services before and after the birth of their child, provide a unique opportunity to work with them at a stage which is so vitally important to the development of children.”

Specifically:

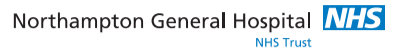
- At-risk families and those experiencing difficulties will be able to access evidence-based services which promote parent-infant interaction, delivered by qualified professionals. We will map the interventions currently available to identify and address unmet need.
- Women who are at risk or suffering from mental health problems will be able to receive appropriate support at the earliest opportunity, with every local area having a range of services in place. Every woman with a history of past or present serious mental illness should have access to a Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist and specialist support in relation to mother-infant interaction as required, in accordance with the NICE guidelines.
- All parents will have access to ante natal classes which address both the physical and emotional aspects of parenthood and the baby’s well-being.
- Maternity services, health visitors, social care, adult mental health services and providers of children’s centre services will work closely together to share vital data, enabling those who need additional support to receive appropriate, timely, and culturally sensitive help.
- The health and early years workforce will have access to high quality training in infant mental health and attachment in order for practitioners to understand parent-infant relationships and the services required when difficulties arise. This will enable them to focus on the attachment needs of babies and infants.
- Local commissioning and decision making boards will consider the social and emotional health needs of babies, and include information about this in their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Local Health and Well-being Strategy. Underpinning this will be a cost-benefit analysis to capture the full extent of the costs to society that can be avoided through effective investment in the first 1001 days.
- Children’s Centres will continue to provide universal services for all families, but with a focus on those families with the highest level of need. Outreach and volunteer services will be recognised as a potential means to provide the greatest success in reaching the most vulnerable and isolated families. Children’s Centre registration will be promoted by all professionals in contact with families and through the Birth Registration service so that close to 100% of families engage with their local Centre.
- Parents will be supported and encouraged by health and early years professionals to engage and communicate with their children as an effective and straightforward way of strengthening early attachment and language development.



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25th January 2016