

Appendix B: HOSC Paper regarding Breastfeeding peer support service in Barnet

24 May 2018

The Barnet breastfeeding peer support service, which was established in 2014, provides a pathway of breastfeeding support services within hospital and community settings. The service provides universal support with an added focus on those vulnerable mothers. It has achieved UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative accreditation at level 2.

The Breast Feeding Service is funded through the public health grant and is provided by Central London Community Healthcare Trust. It consists of a coordinator and a team of paid breastfeeding support workers who provide training, advice and support to parents and professionals. There are also a small number of breastfeeding support volunteers who work alongside the peer supporters in drop in's within the borough.

The contract was renewed as part of the Public Health Nursing contract until March 2020 following a Policy and Resources committee decision in February 2018. As part of the extension a transformation is underway so the service can deliver the healthy child programme in Barnet. A steering group and stakeholder group have been set up, with specific workstreams to design the delivery model for the next two years.

The intention is that the service will continue by being embedded in a variety of services so that the support given to parents is mainstreamed and becomes part of business as usual. It will be embedded within the 0-19 hubs and form part of the multi-agency early help offer building on the work that already takes place in children's centres through the breast feeding buddies (who are children's centre staff). Health visitors, midwifery and nursery nurses will also form part of this service and will offer breast feeding support too. Breastfeeding support is also available from national sources e.g. NHS choices and the national breastfeeding network.

The intention is that the following services will continue to be available to Barnet residents:

- Breastfeeding drop in sessions for advice and support in a number of settings, including children centres and health visitor clinics.
- Staff trained to give advice to mothers when they have breastfeeding questions or need support, whether at home or in a clinic or children centre group
- Telephone advice from the health visitors and children centres and signposting to national information e.g. NHS choices.
- Access to the national breastfeeding support telephone helpline

There is a planned engagement event on the 24 May on breast feeding support, which is being designed to elicit the views and wishes of Barnet residents and stakeholders about breastfeeding support to inform the future detailed design of the service, including local and national support.

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