

New Beginnings - Pregnancy and Newborn Support Service

New Beginnings is a partnership project between NHS Tayside maternity services and Dundee City Council social work department. This joint initiative aims to improve the identification and assessment of need and support provided for substance using pregnant women and their families. Through early intervention the project seeks to minimise potential risk and improve outcomes in families where there may be childcare or child protection concerns.

The service objectives are to:

- Improve access to appropriate services.
- Ensure quality care in pregnancy and the postnatal period in accordance with best practice guidelines.
- Facilitate early identification, assessment and support of vulnerable women and their families.
- Maximise the effectiveness of joint working by enhancing inter-agency communication and continuity of care.
- Co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to care planning and support.

The project team will:

- Develop an assessment framework and models for best practice.
- Undertake early individual assessment of needs and risks in respect of mother and baby.
- Identify those agencies that can best address the assessed individual health and social needs and risks identified.
- Promote joint working through the development of an agreed multi-agency action plan.
- Deliver specialist education, care and parenting support within hospital settings and the community.

The team will offer a service throughout pregnancy and the postnatal period. This will ensure a clear pathway of care and improve communication between service users and all support services.

Where initial assessment identifies an increased level of risk/needs:

- Further multi-agency assessment will be undertaken to determine the level of risk and needs.
- A multi-agency action plan aimed at reducing risk will be devised to meet the needs of both mother and baby.
- Where concerns remain high, consideration will be given to implementation of formal child protection procedures, as appropriate.

The action plan may include support interventions such as:

- Referral to mainstream/specialist health, social work or voluntary agencies
- Provision of specialist advice and support from the team, including parenting support.
- One-to-one or group antenatal and post-natal education programmes
- Relaxation and stress management
- Video Interaction Guidance
- Health education and promotion

The project also aims to develop:

- A support and consultancy service to mainstream service providers
- Multi-agency education and training

Referral to the Service

The team seek to become involved as soon as a woman meeting the referral criteria is identified (12-14 weeks pregnant or earlier).

However not all women will present to health services in pregnancy or disclose their drug or alcohol use. In the event of any known substance use during pregnancy professionals are encouraged to contact the team to discuss referral.

Referrals to the service can be made to any member of the team by telephone using the contact details overleaf.

new beginnings

The Team

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If you have difficulty understanding English,
please contact the address below:

اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ قائم کریں
নেত্র ভাষা বুঝতে অসুবিধা হলে অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।
如果閣下對英語不十分明白，請與以下地址聯絡：

Dundee Translation Unit, Dundee City Council, Central Library, Wellgate Centre,
Dundee DD1 1DB. Tel: 01382 431563 or 431542 Fax: 01382 431542

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For substance using
women and their families



Information for professionals