



# Setting the Scene

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**Parent-Infant Foundation**



**INFANT  
MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS WEEK**

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## Why should we care about the Health & Care Bill?

- Getting things right for babies and toddlers requires action from a number of different services with different commissioners.  
**Coordination and accountability are important.**
- Statutory services, child protection and acute care are often prioritised in local systems, especially in tough economic times.  
**We must prevent a "Baby Blindspot".**





# Why should we care about the Health & Care Bill?

- The support babies and their families receive varies hugely depending on where they live. Much of this variation is unwarranted – in fact the most disadvantaged communities are often more likely to miss out. **Action is required to tackle the unwarranted local variation in provision.**



## National and Local Variation in Services for Families in the First 1001 Days

### Summary

This Evidence Brief, produced by the First 1001 Days Movement, is one of a series evidencing the case for investment in pregnancy and the earliest years of life.

In this Brief, we examine the variation in services for babies and their families in different parts of the UK, particularly in England.

The four nations of the UK are providing very different services for babies and their families.

There is significant variation in service provision across England. Some of the most disadvantaged areas, with the greatest need, have seen the largest cuts in services.

Some variation in local service provision is important and demonstrates a response to the local context and need, but there is also unwarranted variation. Funding is clearly a key factor affecting the availability and quality of services, but there are other factors at play too. The commitment and ambition of local leaders play a significant role in shaping local provision.

To level-up babies' experiences and outcomes, governments must tackle the unwarranted variations which mean that families face a postcode lottery in accessing the support they need.



# There is unwarranted variation in local provision.

- **Mental Health:** Only 52% of professionals surveyed said their local NHS children and young people's mental health service took referrals for children aged two and under
- **Health Visitors:** There are disparities in the proportion of children who have contact with health visitor services and the nature of these contacts.
- **Children's Centres:** The extent of cuts, the number of centres that remain open, and the range of services on offer vary significantly.

## Family Hub Network



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Some variation in local service provision is important and demonstrates a response to the local context and need, but there is also unwarranted variation. Funding is clearly a key factor affecting the availability and quality of services, but there are other factors at play too. The commitment and ambition of local leaders play a significant role in shaping local provision.

To level-up babies' experiences and outcomes, governments must tackle the unwarranted variations which mean that families face a postcode lottery in accessing the support they need.

# Resources matter. So do local decisions.

"The reality is that despite the efforts of local government the poorest places and the poorest people are being the hardest hit, with those least able to cope with service withdrawal bearing the brunt of service reduction."

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

"Some local authorities... intervened more frequently with teenagers, especially older teenagers, than with under-fives. For other local authorities this relationship was reversed... The patterns again suggest underlying attitudes or priorities"

Child Welfare Inequalities Project







## Will the Health and Care Bill:

- ❑ Facilitate coordination between local agencies with a role in the first 1001 days
- ❑ Ensure clear accountability
- ❑ Ensure babies and toddlers are given the attention they need
- ❑ Help to address unwarranted local variation in provision?





HM Government

# The Best Start for Life

A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days

The Early Years Healthy Development Review Report



CP 419

"We will work across national and local government and the NHS to ensure the Start for Life offer is at the heart of local healthcare commissioning and integral to their Integrated Care Systems."

"Our vision is that delivering support and services to families during the 1,001 critical days will be the responsibility of a single, identifiable leader who would be accountable... in their area. This leader ensures that the 1,001 critical days are prioritised and that excellent services are co-commissioned across the public and third sectors as part of the Integrated Care Systems core offer."







## Today's agenda:

### Why local decisions matter:

**Local differences in Health visiting.** Alison Morton, IHV

### When it goes well:

**Examples of local systems driving progress on the First 1001 Days.**

- Debbie Adams, Head of Integrated Early Years Service Camden
- Trudy Mills, Vicky Williams, Kathryn Hollins, Surrey Heartland ICS

### What the Bill could deliver:

**How the Health and Care Bill will influence local partnership working for 0-2s.** Philippa Baker and Dorian Kennedy, DHSC





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— FOUNDATION —