



# Policy Update

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## Our policy and campaigning work

- Promoting **parent-infant teams** across the UK
- Coordinating the **First 1001 Days Movement** to campaign for broader policy and investment to support babies social and emotional development.





## Northern Ireland

- Recognition of **infant mental health at a national level** for many years e.g. IMH framework 2016
- 2021 new **10 yr mental health strategy** recognises value of early years/lifecourse approach, and strengthens perinatal provision and makes commitments to action on infant mental health.

*“We will ensure that the needs of children under 2 are including in the development of mental health services and the delivery of CAMHS.”*

- Ongoing work with the **Stronger from the Start** alliance to influence policy implementation.





## Scotland

- **National commitment** to infant mental health provision in programme for Government, backed up by investment.
- Rapid growth of **perinatal and infant mental health provision** led by a dedicated Programme Board.
- We have been supporting both the Programme Board and local areas through our support offer in Scotland.





## Scotland

We are now seeking funding to expand our policy presence to:

- ensure **quality, sufficiency and sustainability** of services.
- see this work embedded into “**business as usual**”, with clear ownership and ongoing momentum.
- ensure visibility of ongoing **implementation issues**.
- build **wider buy-in and understanding** of infant mental health services.
- explore how a **babies’ rights perspective** can support advocacy.





## Wales

- No national commitment to IMH/parent-infant teams but many useful developments (eg. Early years integration transformation programme; Perinatal Mental Health policy).
- **Growing interest at a national and local level**
- Our project in Cwm Taf Morgannwy helped to show the need for services and what can be done.

We continue to work with partners to influence:

- Joint response to **workforce consultation**
- **Ministerial visit** planned
- New **Mental Health Strategy** expected soon.



# England

## *Within the NHS...*



- NHS Long Term Plan set out goal for specialist MH support for all children 0-25 but no detail until now on what this means and how it will be delivered.
- *“The Government is considering the recommendation that NHSE sets out a clear action plan for how it will meet the target of 100 per cent access to specialist support for all children and young people by 2029.”*
- **NHSE and DHSC have commissioned work on understanding need and benchmarking provision. Please ensure you contribute!**
- **Mental health plan out for consultation – includes questions on infants. Responses by 7 July.** Expected to inform new NHS LTP.





## Supporting families

- New outcomes framework includes good early years development.
- Q&A “Engagement with an individual or a group based intervention to support the parent-infant relationship would count towards the outcome...”
- **FAQ on parent-infant teams**

Family need	Data source	Outcome	Evidence
Expectant or new parent/carers who require additional or specialist support (e.g., young parents, parents who have been in care, parents with learning needs)	GP, Dentist, Health Visitor, Midwife, Family Nurse Partnership, Health records  Information from practitioner assessments, contacts and referrals, including self-referral.	Families are engaged with appropriate support that can be seen to be making a difference; capacity for positive, effective parenting increased and they are accessing and engaging with services	Completed evidence-based parenting course with evidence of parents/carers implementing those strategies and improved outcomes  Practitioner and/or self-assessment - improved outcomes







## *Within the Start for Life Vision...*

Parent and infant mental health/parent-infant relationships  
in vision.

£100m over three years.

Matt can say more!!





## What else?

- Influencing local authority leaders
- Framing research
- IMHAW
- Public and private work with partners eg. joint letter to Sajid Javid with BPS, RCPsych and ACP on workforce.





# First 1001 Days Movement

- Creating a clear, compelling, consistent narrative.
- Working together to influence national policy.
  - **Implementation of Start for Life (leadership, £, accountability)**
  - **Health and Care Bill**
  - **Health Visiting (report due soon!)**
  - **COVID-19 and babies**
- Supporting members to influence locally or on specific issues.

