



Reaching the Most Vulnerable Babies

Lucy Morton, Scotland Development Lead

[Parentinfantfoundation.org.uk](https://parentinfantfoundation.org.uk)

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Aims of Session

- To consider together the needs of the most vulnerable infants and how best to include these in service design and practice
- To seek views about principles , consider current practice, particularly barriers and enablers
- To identify next steps





Session Plan

- Introduction
- Scottish and UK contexts, current opportunities
- Language and Systems
- Break Out Rooms
- Plenary



Introduction

- My professional background, previous roles
- A bit about GIFT, LIFT and BeST
- Scottish context – policy and service development
- Opportunity – young children at risk having access to IMH expertise



Programme for Government 2019-22



- “create a multi-agency model of infant mental health provision to meet the needs of families experiencing significant adversity, including infant developmental difficulties, parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and trauma”



Opportunities

Scotland

- UNCRC being incorporated into all aspects of Scots Law. Infants Rights Statement being developed and Best Practice Guidelines.

UK

- Start for Life investment
- NICE Guidance – therapeutic services for infants at risk
- Possibility of joint campaigning calls



PIF Vision

- **Vision** is that **all babies** have a sensitive, nurturing relationship to lay the foundation for lifelong mental and physical health



A bit about language

- Definitions/categories of vulnerability
- At risk:
 - of abuse and neglect
 - of serious developmental harm
 - parental characteristics and family adversities
 - relationship with Social Care and legal systems



Toolkit

- Teams vary about accepting referrals with current safeguarding risks. Some teams accept referrals irrespective of whether the child is on a Child Protection Plan (CPP), some do but ask children's services not to close the case until the parent-infant work is complete, some don't accept referrals whilst the child is on a CPP.



Some points about systems

- US – IMH Research and Practice in child maltreatment
S Fraiburg, A Lieberman, Mary Dozier
- UK – Abuse and Neglect – Welfare State/ Social Care Model. Trauma expertise in LAC MH teams
- PI teams - Psychotherapy Conundrum...
- Risk and Parental Capacity
- Legal Frameworks



Questions

- As a principle, should all babies have access to mental health services based on clinical need
- What are barriers and facilitators to working with infants in the child protection system ?



Next Steps ?

- Is there more we need to understand
- How do we best support you



Thank You !





Lucy Morton

lucy@parentinfantfoundation.org.uk