



Policy update and IMHAW

Tamora Langley – April 2023



- An expert policy-maker
- The Government's Early Years adviser
- Leading government strategy on parent-infant relationship work





HM Government

The Best Start for Life

A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days

The Early Years Healthy Development Review Report



“...Imagine living in a world where a vanishingly small number of babies and children need to be taken into care...”

“Securely attached infants are much more likely to go on to become adults who cope well with life’s ups and downs, build strong relationships at work and at home, and are better equipped to raise their own children.”





The Best Start for Life

A Vision for the 1,000

The Early Years Health Development Review

Action Areas

Ensuring families have access to the services they need

- 1. Seamless support for families:** a coherent joined up Start for Life offer available to all families.
- 2. A welcoming hub for families:** Family Hubs as a place for families to access Start for Life services.
- 3. The information families need when they need it:** designing digital, virtual and telephone offers around the needs of the family.

Ensuring the Start for Life system is working together to give families the support they need

- 4. An empowered Start for Life workforce:** developing a modern skilled workforce to meet the changing needs of families.
- 5. Continually improving the Start for Life offer:** improving data, evaluation, outcomes and proportionate inspection.
- 6. Leadership for change:** ensuring local and national accountability and building the economic case.





HM Government

The Best Start for Life

A progress report on
delivering the Vision



Eligible local authorities will now begin to deliver new and improved Start for Life services during 2023. The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme will ensure that families in their areas can access:

- **Parent-infant relationship** and perinatal mental health services to lay the foundations for babies' emotional, physical, and cognitive development





Midwifery

Midwives provide personalised support to families throughout pregnancy and labour.



Health Visiting

Health visitors work with other Start for Life professionals after childbirth in supporting families. They are responsible for the 5 mandated child development reviews.



Parent-Infant Mental Health

These services ensure that parents, carers and babies are forming a secure bond and, where needed, provide mental health and relationship support.



Infant Feeding

Infant feeding services support parents with feeding their babies, breastfeeding support and advice on nutrition.



Special Educational Needs and Disability

Special educational needs and disability services support disabled or seriously ill babies and their families.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding services seek to protect babies from abuse and maltreatment.

The Government's Start for Life Progress report lists parent-infant mental health as one of the 6 buckets of Start for life services.



NHS commissioned services

The NHS provider landscape differs across the country. In your local area, you may have different NHS providers for your maternity care, health visiting and mental health services.

Your Start for Life offer will be an opportunity to bring together the elements of NHS provision that are relevant to the 1,001 critical days into one place, regardless of the NHS provider.



NHS policy – what's the deal?

- Mental health strategy update scrapped in favour of 'Major conditions strategy'
- Workforce strategy delayed – strikes dominate the agenda
- NHSE's 3-year maternity and neonatal single delivery plan published in April. This states women should receive care that has a 'life course approach and preventative perspective, to ensure holistic care for women and the best start in life for babies'



What's next?

- Geographical gaps in services
- Addressing commissioning gaps
- Engaging with Labour in view of a possible change of government in 2024



Building Labour support



National policy engagement



Have your say in the development of Labour policy

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A future where families come first

We want a country where families come first, in all of their wonderful diversity, and where all people are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, regardless of their background.

This includes **social security, pensions, childcare, early years, housing and homelessness, and women and equalities**. The Commission will meet regularly to consider evidence and submissions, identify challenges, and develop Labour policy in these areas.

The members of the Policy Commission are drawn from the

Q. How can the next Labour government ensure all young children enjoy a childhood that enables them to thrive?

A. We recommend that you commit to funding Parent-infant relationship services, for all families who need them.





You can help, by
engaging your
local MPs,
whatever party
they are from, and
taking part in
IMHAW 2023



IMHAW 2023



**Bonding
Before
Birth**

#IMHAW2023

- 12th to 18th June
- Local events on 'Bonding before birth'
- Opportunity to showcase antenatal work
- Opportunity to engage MPs
- Survey of mums (for media)





Parent-Infant
— FOUNDATION —