



Policy update

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What's happening?

In Westminster

- Labour's missions
- Start for Life and the Spending Review
- Abolition of NHS England & a new 10-Year plan for Health
- New Health & Social Care Select Committee inquiry

In Scotland & Wales

- A new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy in Wales
- Building consensus in Scotland ahead of the 2026 elections

For Infant Mental Health Awareness Week





The government's 'Opportunity Mission' is to “Set every child up for the best start in life.”

The Mission milestone:

- 75% of 5-year-olds reaching a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage assessment – which looks at children’s development across areas like language, personal, social and emotional development, and maths and literacy – by 2028.





Keir Starmer's Plan for Change promised to: **Strengthen and join up family services** to improve support through pregnancy and early childhood

- This includes continuing to invest in and build up Family Hubs and Start for Life programmes to support early child health, parenting and home learning programmes, and strengthening health visiting services for all families, and improved early identification of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).





But

- Local Authorities are spending just a quarter of that spend on Sure Start at its peak in 2010.
- Almost half (49%) of Local Authorities report cuts to their budget for children's centres and Family Hubs between 2023/24 and 2024/25

[Centre for Young Lives FOI requests, April 2025]





The 11th June Spending Review will set departmental budgets for the next 3 years. We have called for:

- £756m across the three-year spending review period to roll-out the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme to all upper-tier English local authorities, as recommended by the CQC and Ofsted.
- As part of this, allocate £73m each financial year to enable every local authority area to develop at least one parent-infant team.

This would enable 39,200 vulnerable babies to receive specialist support every year by 2028/29.





Also:

- NHS England is being abolished, with changes to ICBs
- A new 10-Year Plan for Health is due in June

We have called for a clear mandate for NHS mental health services to address the infant mental health needs of 0–2-year-olds, including specific targets for outcomes, access, and secondary prevention services, to be reviewed and updated at regular intervals.





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Committees

[UK Parliament](#) > [Business](#) > [Committees](#) > [Health and Social Care Committee](#) > The First 1000 Days: a renewed focus

The First 1000 Days: a renewed focus

Inquiry

The first 1000 days of life, from conception to age two, are widely recognised as a critical period for child development, shaping long-term health, well-being, and life outcomes. The previous Committee examined this period in its 2019 First 1000 days of life inquiry considering national strategy, current spending and barriers to investment and local provision. Since then, there have been a number of significant policy developments in this area. The most notable being the shift to integrated care services (ICSs) under the previous Government in 2022. The

Learn more at our free webinar



Parent-Infant
FOUNDATION

LABOURLIST

THIS IS AN ONLINE ZOOM EVENT

**Rosie Wrighting – Health
Mission Champion**

**Sarah Smith – Opportunity
Mission Champion**

**Keith Reed – CEO of the
Parent-Infant Foundation**

**Dr. Lisa Marsland-Hall –
Mental Health & Service Lead
for Mersey Care**

**What do the Labour
Missions mean for babies?**

Thursday 15th May, 12.30PM – 13.30PM





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Together for Mental Health

A Strategy for Mental Health and
Wellbeing in Wales

Our Wales lead Dr Liz Gregory met Welsh Ministers in March, to talk through our recommendations for services

In May Welsh Government published their new strategy, which recognises the critical importance of early relationships, and commits to agreeing an approach to parent-infant relationships this year.





Our new Public Affairs Manager for Scotland, Nancy Greig, has interviewed more than 15 stakeholders and experts – they agree a new initiative is needed ahead of the Holyrood election in May 2026

Watch this space!



Who is holding the baby?

#IMHAW2025



June 9th – 15th

Online launch of our report
'Who's holding the baby'

Email your MP now inviting
them to visit your team





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