

BEST START IN LIFE FOR ALL CHILDREN

Dr Andrea Richardson
Head of Learning for Life



Leeds Best Start Plan: a shared priority

Strategic:

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Leeds Children & Young People Plan

Informed by WAVE evidence

5 outcomes:

- 1) Healthy mothers, healthy babies
- 2) Parents experiencing stress are identified
- 3) Well prepared parents
- 4) Good bonding and attachment
- 5) Development of early language and communication



Existing resources

- Maximising the wealth of existing resource (i.e., MWs, HVs, CCs)
- Breast Feeding Initiative accreditation
- Universal Preparation Birth Beyond programme offer for 1st time parents
- Healthy Eating Nutritionally Really Young programme across the city
- Stay and Play offer in children centres
- Perinatal mental health a priority
- Parent counselling



New resource

- Helping Hands
- Jointly commissioned Infant Mental Health Service
- Establishing Best Start zones
- Targeted Preparation Birth and Beyond support to vulnerable cohorts
- Responsive Parenting offer in development in CCs



New resource

- Best Beginnings Baby Buddy app (Northern Impact Study; Maternal mental health module and digitalising Understanding Your Baby booklet)
- Baby Steps- multi-agency team set up
- New observation assessment by HVs as part of routine post natal screening



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Top 3 tips

- Draw up an Information Sharing Agreement right at the start
- Identify and resolve the thorny issues e.g. governance, commissioning, data analysis, working patterns, decision making
- Quality assurance to ensure consistent and transformed practice



Future options

- Budget reductions
- Better services with less people
- **Reduced/ close services or transform services**
- Investing in the evidence of early intervention and prevention
- Universal v targeted/ specialist services
- Improving the offer and its impact
- Closer working with CCG's, schools
- Joint commissioning of health visiting and children's centres
- Better 'systems' -single point of access, more self service
- Extending the age range (0-8)



BEST START IN LIFE FOR ALL CHILDREN -

Thank you !

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