

Support for pregnant women and those with young children – notes from GM 1st March 2021

Speakers: Zaria Crowther, Specialist Health Visitor (SHV) and Kerry Godden, Family Support worker (FSW), Homeless Healthcare Team

The Homeless Healthcare Team supports families who are asylum seekers, have No Recourse to Public Funds they also support families who are placed in B & B, refuges or are sofa surfing. They receive referrals several different ways via Ready Homes, Homeless Housing Team at Southampton City Council, the Refuges and from other professionals across the board.

The team consists of two Health Visitors, Zaria Crowther and Laura Brook and a Family Support Worker, Kerry Godden. The Health Visitors undertake an intensive assessment which is like the Common Assessment Framework, but is called the Family Health Assessment, using an interpreter if necessary, to establish a family's needs and to build up a package of support.

The FSW ensures that families are registered with a GP, dentist, and optician and ensure they have an updated HC2. They ensure that children are enrolled in school and pre-school and adults at CLEAR for English classes if needed. They help with forms to apply for maternity grants, make referrals to food bank, clothing bank, and baby equipment from Millbrook and accompany families to toddler groups, Third Age Centre, AMC etc.

Where asylum seekers gain Leave to Remain, FSW help families apply for Universal Credit and Child Benefit and can support with appointments at Housing and the Job Centre. Once the family have moved into longer term temporary housing or moved out of area, they are then handed over to the care of the local Health Visiting Team.

Health Visitors can be contacted when those with Discretionary Leave to Remain may need a supporting letter to apply for a fee waiver for the Immigration Health Surcharge for children to access secondary health care.

Homeless Healthcare Team works with families with children aged 0-19 and share information with SureStart, nurseries and schools. They make referrals to Yellow Door, GPs, the perinatal team and mental health services. They refer children to health services to follow up any developmental delay, and refer to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) if they have any safeguarding concerns

ECHO (Enhanced Health Visiting Offer) is the intensive support offer that the Southampton HV uses for some vulnerable families. This is similar to the enhanced service that the clients receive from the Homeless Healthcare Team.

The NHS doesn't provide male circumcision except for health reasons.

Parents may need to be informed that NSPCC guidance in the UK is that babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

Contact details for Homeless Healthcare Team in Southampton: 0300 123 3991