

20 October 2022

Dear colleagues

We are writing to you today to let you know that Lambeth and Southwark Councils, together with Evelina London, have decided to stop providing the Family Nurse Partnership Programme in our boroughs. We will instead be providing the Bright Beginnings pathway, which is outlined later in this letter. We have recently notified the Family Nurse Partnership National Unit of this decision and are working to safely transition existing families on the caseload to the new Bright Beginnings pathway.

There are currently fewer than 20 people living in Lambeth and Southwark on the Family Nurse Partnership Programme. During the decommissioning process we will ensure that every individual transitions to universal and targeted services appropriately so they continue to receive the services they need. We will work with each individual to develop a transfer plan communicating clearly with them what to expect, and will update other agencies involved in supporting them.

We recognise the positive impact the Family Nurse Partnership Programme has had on young mothers living in Lambeth and Southwark and thank you for the important role you have played in identifying and referring young mothers to the service over the last 12 years. The decision to bring the programme to a close recognises changes in the teenage birth rate over recent years and the impact the pandemic and the challenging socio-economic environment are having on a broader population of families in our areas. We recognise there is an opportunity to expand and transform the Early Intervention Health Visiting service in both boroughs that builds upon our current enhanced health visiting offer and can be personalised to any families identified with additional support needs.

Over recent months, Evelina London has been working with staff and families to develop a new Early Intervention Health Visiting pathway called Bright Beginnings. We are delighted to report that during Evelina London's recent client engagement events, facilitators listened to lots of positive feedback on the proposed Bright Beginnings pathway and to ideas on how we can refine it further. Importantly, we very clearly heard the value and importance families place on the health visiting services they receive and we fully intend to keep delivering high quality services to families.

Once operational, the Bright Beginnings pathway will be delivered by an expanded team of Early Intervention Health Visitors which will include those who until now have operated as Family Nurses delivering the Family Nurse Partnership programme.

Referring people to our services

In recognition of the fact we are going through a period of service transition, we are no longer taking new referrals to the Family Nurse Partnership programme. Please remove any promotional and referral materials for Family Nurse Partnership from circulation.

Please refer any women who meet the existing referral criteria for Family Nurse Partnership as well as any other pregnant women or women with children under 2 with additional support needs to our Early Intervention Health Visiting team. You can do so by emailing:

gst-tr.earlyinterventionhealthvisiting@nhs.net

They will assess each client's needs and provide the universal and enhanced health visiting services they need, joining up with other services as required.

We look forward to updating you further on the Bright Beginnings pathway over the coming months.

In the meantime, the Evelina London team have updated the [Family Nurse Partnership](#) and [Health Visiting](#) sections of the Evelina London website. They will update the website with information about the new Early Intervention Health Visiting service, the Bright Beginnings pathway, as it becomes operational, providing details about the referral criteria and referral process.

Rest assured our teams remain fully committed to providing families with the health visiting services they need. The early years in a child's life are incredibly important and we are proud of the role we collectively play in ensuring children get the safe and secure start in life they deserve.



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