

<i>Tags: Children &amp; Families; Country: UK; Language: English; Year: 2011; Event: ESN Seminar (Paris)</i>	
<b>Programme's name</b>	<b>Early Notification of Pregnancy</b>
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	County Council Lancashire, United Kingdom
<u>Website:</u>	<a href="#">Here</a>
<u>Contact:</u>	Available upon request
<u>Summary:</u>	<p>Vulnerable mothers-to-be in Lancashire received pre- and post-natal support from health and education professionals at their local children's centre, in a programme that aims to reduce their isolation, improve their parenting skills and boost the prospects of a safe and happy childhood for their baby.</p> <p>The support is targeted at women at high risk of stress or isolation, such as teenagers, lone parents, young people leaving care, victims of domestic violence, women who already have three or four children under five and those or who do not have English as a first language.</p> <p>Midwives report being able to concentrate more on the clinical aspects of their role, with children's centres providing additional social support in the care of the mother and baby.</p> <p>Called Early Notification of Pregnancy, the process starts with midwives notifying children's centres of all local pregnancies. At the mother's first ante-natal appointment - at the children's centre, hospital or clinic – she completes with the midwife an Early Notification Form, in which she gives permission for the local children's centre to get in touch.</p> <p>Contact from the children's centre is made early on in the pregnancy - by a home visit in some of the most deprived areas. The mother is then encouraged to attend the centre for ante-natal clinical care from a midwife and for childcare and parenting advice from other staff, as well as support from other mothers. She thus builds up a relationship of trust with the centre, which continues once the child is born.</p>

	Other services, such as Jobcentre Plus and housing advice, are also available.
<u>Issues:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lancashire Serious Case Review Panel, identified high numbers of infant deaths or injuries. Many infant deaths and injuries occur in families with vulnerable women, who have often received very poor parenting themselves.</li> <li>• Working with vulnerable parents in the early stages of pregnancy is challenging due to mutually lacking awareness. Whilst the professionals are not aware of the pregnancy, the early parents lack knowledge on the advantages of early pregnancy support and risk factors.</li> </ul>
<u>Resources:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From October 2009, 21 antenatal booking clinics commenced across community venues in central Lancashire, 16 of which are in children's centres, resulting in 64 hours of midwifery time delivered in children's centres.</li> </ul>
<u>Objectives:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing infant mortality</li> <li>• Improving pre- and post-natal support of vulnerable parents, notably mothers</li> </ul>
<u>Outcomes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April – August 2009: 430 Early Notifications were received in one locality, which have been distributed to 16 different children's centres.</li> <li>• There is a widespread increase in communication between the midwifery, children's centres and health visiting services.</li> <li>• There is also an enhanced opportunity for information sharing to best meet the needs of the family.</li> </ul>
<u>Evaluation:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families report feeling better supported and able to access services available in the Children's Centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Testimonial from a service user</b> Amy, who has long had a difficult relationship with her mentally ill mother, was "shocked" to find herself pregnant at 18 - and kicked out of the house. For her, the Westgate children's centre has become almost a home from home. She started going there when she was pregnant and, once her son Ashton was born, found it gave her vital support in the difficult early days.</p>

*"At one point I was here every single day, at different groups and courses, so it kept me busy and gave me a reason to get dressed in the morning," she says. "After having the baby, I had quite down days and stuff. So it just kept me going, really." Today, she looks after Ashton with more confidence and enjoys an increased level of wellbeing. "Through the children's centre, I've got certificates, and I know what I want to do, and they've shown me a way that I can do it with having a child, and I've started my NVQ, and hopefully that's a brighter future for me and for Ashton," she says.*