



haringey strategic partnership

for children & young people

AGENDA ITEM

MEETING

**Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board
27th March 2007**

TITLE

Haringey Infant Mortality Action Plan: 2007-2010

SUMMARY

While the infant mortality rate for England is at an all time low, the rate in Haringey continues to be significantly higher than that for England and Wales, London and our neighbouring boroughs.

This revised Action Plan to reduce infant mortality in Haringey builds on work first carried out in 2004. A review of the Infant Mortality Action Plan 2004-05 was subsequently undertaken at the end of last year to assess progress against the identified actions. This updated action plan incorporates the findings of the review and takes into account consultation with key stakeholders.

The 2007-10 plan identifies priority actions to reduce infant mortality in Haringey focussing on:

- Strengthening local delivery
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Smoking Cessation
- Antenatal to Postnatal Care including Breastfeeding
- Social Support
- Income, Education and Employment

RECOMMENDATIONS

a) The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board adopt the Infant Mortality Action Plan, subject to any revisions.

b) The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board agree to incorporate monitoring of the Infant Mortality Action Plan through the existing monitoring arrangements for the Children and Young People's Plan.

c) Identified stakeholders note their roles in delivering the plan and agree to take forward attributed actions.

LEAD OFFICER(S)

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Infant Mortality Action Plan March 2007 - 2010

1. Why focus on Infant Mortality¹

While the infant mortality rate for England is at an all time low, rates in Haringey are increasing and continue to be significantly higher than those for England and Wales, London and our neighbouring boroughs.

The following table compares the infant mortality rate in Haringey with England and Wales and London:

Infant mortality rates (2003-2005)

	England and Wales	London	Haringey (Rate and number)
Under 1 year	5.1	5.2	8.1 (97)
Neonatal (infant deaths under 28 days per 1,000 live births)	3.5	3.5	5.1 (61)
Perinatal (Stillbirths & Infant deaths under 7 days per 1,000 total births)	2.7	2.6	4.0 (48)

It is important to note that as the number of deaths in infancy each year is small there is likely to be some year on year fluctuations that could affect the rate. Nevertheless the Haringey rate continues to be significantly above the London average and is therefore a cause for concern.

Analysis over a 3 year period shows that the Infant Mortality rate is higher in wards in the east of Haringey, although it is difficult to interpret the significance of this because of the small number of deaths involved.

Success in reducing our Infant Mortality rate depends on sustained and concerted effort from a wide range of partners in order to make a real difference to babies born in Haringey.

2. Policy framework to reduce Infant Mortality

The Government has made tackling health inequalities a priority by setting a national health inequalities PSA target, which is underpinned with objectives on reducing infant mortality and increasing life expectancy in disadvantaged populations. The infant mortality element of the target is:

¹ Infant mortality rates describe the deaths of infants in the first year of life. The rate is the number of live newborns dying under one year per thousand live births

Starting with children under one year, by 2010 to reduce by at least 10% the gap in mortality between the routine and manual group² and the population as a whole.

To achieve this target, the government has set three complementary targets. These targets measure progress on the three most important risk factors for infant mortality which include: breastfeeding, smoking and teenage pregnancy. The targets are:

1. To deliver a 2% increase annually in the proportion of women initiating breastfeeding, focusing particularly on women from disadvantaged groups.
2. To deliver a 1% reduction, annually, in the proportion of women smoking through pregnancy, especially focusing on smokers from disadvantaged groups.
3. Reduce the 1998 teenage conception rate by 50% (55% in Haringey).

The Local Delivery Plan (LDP) 2005-08 outlines both the Haringey TPCT plans for addressing these national public sector agreement (PSA) targets and more broadly its strategies for overarching issues such as tackling health inequalities.

The Department of Health's recent review on the Infant Mortality PSA target³ identified the following key principles or "high impact changes" that could achieve change at a local level and help deliver the target:

- Know the target, know your gap
- Make the target part of everyday business – integrate it into commissioning plans and provider contracts
- Take responsibility, engage communities and families in this work
- Match resources to need
- Focus on what can be done

These principles have been incorporated into this local action plan in the "Strengthening Local Delivery" section and will guide the implementation of the plan overall. Further guidance on reducing infant mortality is expected from the Department of Health in Spring 2007.

Actions to reduce infant mortality within this plan will also be guided by the implementation of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, together with relevant NICE Guidance.

² The routine and manual group includes those in lower supervisory and technical, semi-routine and routine occupations. Typical examples might be porters, cleaners, bar staff, waiters/waitresses, sales assistants, catering assistants, train drivers, people working call centres, electricians and sewing machinists.

³ Department of Health February 2007 Review of the Health Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA Target;

3. Development and implementation of an action plan to reduce infant mortality

This revised Action Plan to reduce infant mortality in Haringey builds on work first carried out in 2004. A review of the Infant Mortality Action Plan 2004-05 was subsequently undertaken at the end of last year to assess progress against the identified actions. This updated action plan incorporates the findings of the review and takes into account consultation with key stakeholders including the acute trusts, the TPCT and Local Authority representatives.

The 2007-10 plan identifies priority actions to reduce infant mortality in Haringey focussing on:

- Strengthening local delivery
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Smoking Cessation
- Antenatal to Postnatal Care including Breastfeeding
- Social Support
- Income, Education and Employment

5. Monitoring of the action plan

Implementation of this plan will be monitored through the Local Delivery Plan, the Children and Young People's Plan and the Community Strategy.⁴

6. Recommendations

- a) The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board adopt the Infant Mortality Action Plan, subject to any revisions.
- b) The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board agree to incorporate monitoring of the Infant Mortality Action Plan through the existing monitoring arrangements for the Children and Young People's Plan.
- c) Identified stakeholders note their roles in delivering the plan and agree to take forward attributed actions.

March 14th 2007

⁴ We are currently developing a local target for Infant Mortality to be included in the Haringey Community Strategy