

FOI 3050

13th May 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

- 1. Does Southern HSC Trust have specialist midwives dedicated to supporting women who use substances during the perinatal period?**
- **If so, please provide any documentation available for these services, such as referral guidelines, service protocols, or links to relevant webpages or online resources.**

Response:

Yes, the Southern Trust have one Specialist Midwife to support women who use substances during the perinatal period. The service supports women during pregnancy and in the early postnatal period with substance misuse in accordance with National Guidance "Social Complexity in Pregnancy" (NICE).

Role of Substance Misuse and Social Complexity Midwife

The Substance Misuse and Social Complexity Specialist Midwife Service is a support service that provides brief advice to those with a recent history of or who are presently misusing substances. Liaising with other services within the Southern Trust to provide support for pregnant woman, with the aim of reducing the risk of alcohol/drug related harm to the unborn baby and mother. The Specialist Midwife provides support to pregnant woman in relation to the effects of substance misuse in pregnancy. Offering regular contact via telephone or face to face support throughout pregnancy. Working jointly with other services within the Southern Trust e.g. Community Addictions Team; Opiate Substitute Team; Community and Hospital Midwives; Health Visitors; Social Services; Safeguarding Nurse Specialists; Integrated Liaison Service; Home Treatment Team, Mental Health and Perinatal Mental Health Teams.

Addictions and Mental Health Services Contacts:

Community Addiction Team

Opiate Substitute Team

Integrated Liaison Team

Community Midwifery Team Lead

Perinatal Mental Health Team Lead

Antenatal Education Programmes offered:

Southern Trust Antenatal Education Programmes

Mood Matters, Aware NI

Mellow Parenting – Contact mellow.parenting@southerntrust.hscni.net
Hypnobirthing Programme

Pregnancy In Mind

Accompanying documents:

Southern Trust Social Complexities Referral Poster and Criteria

Social Complexities Referral Form

Draft Substance Misuse Policy and Alcohol Screening Tool (Currently under review)

SHSCT Online Antenatal Education Classes

URLs:

[Key priorities for implementation | Pregnancy and complex social factors: a model for service provision for pregnant women with complex social factors | Guidance | NICE](#)

Q2. Are there any other dedicated services within Southern HSC Trust that provide care to women who use or are in treatment for substances during the perinatal period?

Response:

The Southern HSC Trust Community Addictions Service is a Tier 3 specialist addictions treatment service, providing care and interventions to individuals who are using alcohol and/or other substances in a harmful way, often with other complex issues. The service works in partnership with service users to support them in their journey of recovery to moderate or cease their substance use. Service users can include women during the perinatal period.

- **Please provide details on the service, including:**
 - a. Who leads the service and which professionals are involved in delivering the care.**

Response:

The Community Addictions Service is a multi-disciplinary service. It comprises medical staff, community addiction nursing, social work, social care and Occupational Therapy staff. The service is led by a service coordinator.

The Community Addictions Service has a child and family liaison senior social work practitioner who works within the Think Family Model specifically in the area of Hidden

Harm. This practitioner works on 1:1 basis with parents where their substance use has impacted their ability to parent their children safely, including perinatal women. This practitioner works closely with social work teams to provide information and support to both the parent and the professionals, under the HSCB 2011 Adult and Children's Services Joint Protocol. Hidden harm work with a parent explores the impact of the harm that is caused to children both emotionally and physically from addiction and mental health issues.

This practitioner, and where appropriate other practitioners, work closely with the Southern Trust's substance misuse and social complexities midwife – this ensures a seamless service for supporting expectant mothers with substance use problems.

b. Whether this service is a partnership between:

- i. NHS**
- ii. Third sector organisations**
- iii. Local authority**
- iv. Other organisations**

Response:

The Community Addictions Service is a statutory health and social care (HSC) service delivered by the Southern HSC Trust. It works closely with Tier 2 drug and alcohol services delivered by C&V organisations within the Southern Trust area.

c. If applicable, whether the service involves a manualised intervention, is an outreach service, or has a specific location.

Response:

The Community Addictions Service is based at St Luke's Hospital Armagh and offers appointments in hospital and community clinics across the Southern Trust Area

d. Whether the service is provided by a national organisation, or any other relevant details.

Response:

The Community Addictions Service is a statutory HSC service delivered by the Southern HSC Trust.

Please provide any documentation, guidelines, or protocols related to these services, and/or any relevant URLs

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