

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 5th July 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Maternal and infant mental health

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

A presentation will be given to the Health and Wellbeing board members to provide them with an overview of the integrated work that is taking place in Halton to improve infant and maternal mental health and wellbeing.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the contents of the presentation be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Halton has received the 'Locality award for mental health inclusion' at the PIPUK (Parent infant partnership) infant mental health awards. The award was for the collaborative work that has taken place through the Halton Health in the Early Years group, on perinatal mental health, preparation for parenthood, and bonding and attachment. It was in recognition of the close working between the Bridgewater midwives, Family Nurses and Health visitors, and Children's centre staff, Health improvement team, Public health and the CCG. Over the last few years the 'Halton Health in the Early Years' group has worked hard to improve child development, with a focus on emotional health and is an example of good collaborative working.

The Health and Wellbeing board will receive a presentation outlining the work that is taking place to 'give every child the best start in life', by supporting mums mental health and building the relationship with the child.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Improving mental health and wellbeing is central to the development of local communities. It not only contributes to improving health, but has also been shown to increase an individual's ability to improve their education and employment opportunities, reduces social isolation and improves resilience.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications from this presentation.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The effects of depression on the mother, her infant and her family are well documented. "There was a significant association between maternal depression during the postnatal year and reduced quality of mother/child interaction for a significant period of time after the birth of the child" (Stern A, et al. 1991). Mothers with postnatal depression are likely to experience difficulties in relating to and caring for their babies.

Early intervention - at this stage of the child's development relating to perinatal mental health, bonding and attachment is essential to break the cycle of poverty, so enhancing life chances and reducing health inequalities for children and their families.

Parent relationships and early attachments are crucial to young children's ability to learn and develop cognitive, emotional and social capacity. It is in the interest of both child and society for attachment problems to be identified as early as possible.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Early identification and support to maternal mental health and improved infant attachment gives every child the best start in life. In the long term it impacts upon the child's social interactions, education and learning. Working to maximise maternal mental health will also support the mother to achieve education or employment goals.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Having children can be a difficult time for families and mental health problems for mothers during pregnancy and the first year of their child's life are one of the most common complications of pregnancy, affecting between 15-20% of women. Early identification and treatment for families is important and evidence suggests that this has wide ranging implications on the future health of the family. There is also evidence that father can experience a greater risk of emotional health problems during this period.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

N/A for information only

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

NONE

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.'