



## SYTHWOOD CHILDREN'S CENTRE

### BREASTFEEDING POLICY

#### Rationale

*At Sythwood Children's Centre we will support women to recognise and understand the benefits of breastfeeding in a relaxed and supportive environment.*

*Sythwood Children's Centre acknowledges that every woman has the fundamental right to make the decision about how to feed her baby without feeling pressured. At Sythwood Children's Centre we will work towards ensuring that women in the local community make an informed decision about how to feed their baby, based on information and knowledge made available at Sythwood Children's Centre.*

*The breastfeeding policy for Sythwood Children's Centre works alongside the policy agreed by the PCT that provides breastfeeding services at Baby Cafe in the YPOD on Mondays 10.00 – 12.00.*

#### Aims and Strategy

- At Sythwood Children's Centre we will endeavour to increase the percentage of babies who are breastfed beyond 6 to 8 weeks by promoting breastfeeding in the following ways;
  - ✓ Information available at all times in the Centre.
  - ✓ Clinics and breastfeeding support groups.
  - ✓ Breastfeeding champions and mentors.
  - ✓ Breast Pump Hire.
- Sythwood Children's Centre will provide a caring and supportive ethos where women are supported and feel comfortable breastfeeding their child. The health benefits of breastfeeding will be made known to the mothers via literature available in the Centre, breastfeeding support groups and through our breastfeeding champions who will mentor new mothers.
- Sythwood Children's Centre will work closely with professionals from the PCT to ensure that staff working with new and expectant mothers have been fully trained on the management of breastfeeding in order for them to provide competent advice and support.

#### Responsibilities

- At Sythwood Children's Centre this policy will be shared with all staff and be part of the staff induction process. Every member of staff working at Sythwood Primary School and Children's Centre is asked to sign a declaration that they have read understood and will abide by the policies of the Centre.
- At Sythwood Children's Centre all staff dealing with new and expectant mothers will be made aware of the Child protection policy and procedures at the Centre. As part of the induction process staff will be made fully aware that the expectation of the Centre is that

concerns regarding the health and welfare of children will be raised with the Children's Centre Manager

- At Sythwood Children's Centre we will endeavour to prevent the advertising of breast milk substitutes and equipment in the Centre. Breast milk substitutes will not be made available in the Centre for sale.
- Sythwood Children's Centre we will provide the following help and support for parents who have decided to feed their babies artificially:
  - Outreach Home Visiting
  - Drop in baby groups

### **Communication**

At Sythwood Children's Centre this policy will be communicated to all staff members working in the Centre, and Centre users in the following ways:

- New staff will be made aware of the policy during their induction and sign a declaration to stating that they have read and understood the policy.
- Copies of the policy can be requested from the Children's Centre Manager. A policy folder will be located in the green cupboard in the Children's Centre Office providing access to the policy by all Centre users.
- During support groups sessions and training the breastfeeding policy will be highlighted to parents and service users.

***Any questions about this policy should be directed to the Centre Manager Kathryn Blackburn 01483 727900.***