

**LEICESTER CITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**  
**10 October 2016**

<b>Subject:</b>	Regional strategy to reduce infant mortality
<b>Presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board by:</b>	Clare Mills, Lead Commissioner (Healthy Child Programme), Public Health  Nicola Bassindale, Service Manager (Strategy, Quality & Performance), Education & Children's Services
<b>Author:</b>	Nicola Bassindale

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report presents the new strategy to reduce infant mortality in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).

The strategy runs from 2016 to 2019 and has an associated action log that records current and planned actions across a range of risk factor areas. Progress against this log will be monitored by the LLR Infant Mortality Strategy Group (IMSG), with scrutiny and oversight provided by the Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to:

- support UHL's application to achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly level 3 accreditation
- support staff within the H&WB member organisations to engage with the Health Needs Assessment initiated by Leicestershire County Council to investigate needs across LLR regarding the maternal obesity priority
- support the frontline practitioners in their organisations responsible for designing and delivering interventions to reduce maternal obesity
- cascade information regarding this work to their staff reminding them that reducing infant mortality is 'everybody's business' and that their role is important in identifying risk
- support their staff to develop joint working opportunities that enhance outcomes for families

## **MAIN REPORT:**

### Background and Development Process

1. The development of this strategy started in Public Health and was led by a former consultant Bayad Abdalrahman, in conjunction with the IMSG. This initial work was to address infant mortality only, and covered Leicester city only.
2. From November 2015 the lead for this work in Public Health was handed to Clare Mills and a decision was made for Nicola Bassindale from Education & Children's Services to jointly work on the strategy and take on the role of Deputy Chair for the IMSG.
3. The work undertaken to write a strategy was reviewed by the IMSG and, after much discussion, a decision was made to include the issue of stillbirth within the strategy, principally because many of the risk factors for infant mortality are common to those for stillbirth.
4. Extensive consultation, including a multi-agency workshop held during Safer Sleep week in March 2016, developed and refined the strategy and action log. Conversations during this period led to the decision to integrate the work with Leicestershire colleagues, whose Public Health function includes Rutland.
5. Leicester City Council's Public Health and Education & Children's Services' Departmental Management Teams have each signed off the strategy. Leicestershire County Council's Public Health team (covering Rutland) is also taking the strategy through its parallel scrutiny route. The MSLC reviewed and signed off the strategy on 8 August 2016.

### Next Steps

6. The IMSG has identified a number of priorities for the coming months. The group meets quarterly and will focus on a key issue at each meeting, as well as receive reports on the progress of actions recorded in the action log.
7. H&WB members are asked to support the principles of this strategy and enable this support to be cascaded throughout their organisations, ensuring staff are aware of the issues, risks and evidence-based interventions proven to reduce the incidence of infant mortality and stillbirth.
8. H&WB members are also asked specifically to:
  - support UHL's application to achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly level 3 accreditation
  - support their staff to engage with the Health Needs Assessment initiated by Leicestershire County Council to investigate needs across LLR regarding the maternal obesity priority
  - support the frontline practitioners responsible for designing and delivering interventions to reduce maternal obesity

- cascade information regarding this work to their staff reminding them that reducing infant mortality is 'everybody's business' and that their role is important in identifying risk
- support their staff to develop joint working opportunities that enhances outcomes for families