



December 18th, 2014

Welcome for more breastfeeding support

A welcome meeting was held by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust for breastfeeding peer support workers, who are set to help to increase breastfeeding rates among mums in South Tyneside.

A dozen local mothers successfully completed a new training course developed by health visitor Jen Menzies and public health midwife Jane Harker. Along with existing volunteers, they will now work with the Trust's community health professionals, including midwives, health visitors and the recently-established breastfeeding support worker team, who run ante-natal infant feeding workshops and breastfeeding support groups at Children's Centres.

Derek Curry, Clinical Business Manager, Women & Children and Family Services, said: "We are delighted to welcome the new peer support volunteers on board and the meeting was an opportunity for them to meet our health professionals, with whom they'll be working.

"They are an integral part of our future plans to increase initiation and continuation rates for breastfeeding in South Tyneside. Having had positive breastfeeding experiences themselves, they are ideally placed to give other mums advice and to promote the benefits associated with breastfeeding, such as reducing the risk of babies becoming ill and of later childhood disease, and protecting the mother's health."

ends

Pictured above: Some of the new breastfeeding peer counsellors with South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust community health professionals

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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