

1 February 2017

Media release

Launch of the Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health Team



The new Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health Service (SCPNS) run by Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP) will be launched at an event held at Bristol Zoo on Monday 6 February, attended by leading health professionals, commissioners and service users.

The SCPNS is commissioned to provide support for women who experience high risk mental health problems during and after pregnancy, and for their infant up to the age of one year.

The service, initially commissioned by Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group is expanding following a successful collaborative Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire bid to the NHS England Perinatal Mental Health Community Services Development Fund. Funding was awarded to provide a service to the full Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset STP (Sustainability and Transformation Plan) footprint.

The SCPNS has a shared care ethos, working closely with primary care, maternity services, adult mental health teams, early years' services and independent sector organisations, to ensure that all health professionals have access to specialist advice and guidance on managing all women with mental health needs throughout the perinatal period, and that those women have access to specialist assessment, treatment and care planning by the team.

The service will provide three work streams; an advice & guidance service to all health professionals, adjunct to secondary mental health services for women already under secondary MH services where psychiatric disorder predates pregnancy and is expected to continue beyond and new referrals of perinatal presentations not currently under Mental Health Services.

Dr Leanne Hayward, AWP's Consultant Psychiatrist & Clinical Lead said, "As a service, we are in a very unique and privileged position. We have the opportunity to support mothers, infants and their wider family at an incredibly important and precious time in life. By intervening early, providing specialist advice, interventions and education, we have the perfect opportunity to facilitate recovery, promote well-being and attachment between mothers and their babies, to raise awareness and to reduce the impact of mental health conditions on the next generation."

Former service user Emma Pick said, "The thought of being unwell again absolutely petrifies me if I'm honest. However it's so reassuring to learn of this specialist team, who would be in a position to support mums that have experienced acute Post Natal Depression and anxiety previously."

Interview and photograph opportunity:

Monday 6 February from 9.30am - 11.30am, the Pavilion, Bristol Zoo

- 9.30am – Arrival and coffee
- 9.40am – Welcome and setting the scene – Dr Leanne Hayward
- 9.50am – Commissioning the new service – Inge Shepherd, Lead Commissioner-BNSSG bid
- 10.05am – Team and service pathways – Dr Leanne Hayward
- 10.20am – Service user involvement – Facilitated by Becky Eva, SCPNS Team Manager
- 10.30am – Service user experiences - Jacqueline Thomas & Jennie MacDiarmid
- 11.00am – Cutting the cake
- 11.10am – Networking
- 11.30am – Close

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