

Date 02/05/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9973

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Integrated Care Systems.

Question:

- Does your Integrated Care System (ICS) or any NHS organisation within your ICS have specialist midwives dedicated to supporting women who use substances during the perinatal period? If so, please provide any documentation available for these services, such as referral guidelines, service protocols, or links to relevant webpages or online resources.

Answer:

Yes.

Risk Factor	Action	Consultant appointment required?
Maternal drug / alcohol abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer Hepatitis C screening at booking if current/historic IV drug use</li> <li>For growth scans at 30 and 36 weeks (see SGA guideline)</li> <li>If current use, scores 3 for VTE risk (see Thromboprophylaxis guideline)</li> <li>If previous use, presence of phlebitis from IV drug misuse, scores 1 for VTE risk (see Thromboprophylaxis guideline)</li> <li>Consider referral to Prepare Team or Substance Misuse Services where available (only available in City areas)</li> <li>Consider Social Work referral and initiate appropriate alerts</li> <li>If blood borne viruses screening positive refer to Green Clinic (email Dr Sarah Cooper with details for referral, <a href="mailto:sarah.cooper@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk">sarah.cooper@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk</a>)</li> <li>Discuss with neonatal team for neonatal plan, e.g. risk of NAS</li> </ul>	Yes, locality consultant after booking

(From AN Referral Pathways Document)

Headquarters  
Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*

Question:

- Are there any other dedicated services within your ICS area that provide care to women who use or are in treatment for substances during the perinatal period?

Please provide details on the service, including:

- Who leads the service and which professionals are involved in delivering the care.
- Whether this service is a partnership between:
  - NHS - yes
  - Third sector organisations
  - Local authority - yes
  - Other organisations

Answer:

a.	The PrePare Team- PrePare is a pregnancy support service which covers Edinburgh City. It offers support to people over the age of 16 who are currently pregnant, chaotically using substances and have difficulties engaging with community services. It is based in Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre.
b.	PrePare is a multidisciplinary team comprised of a specialised midwife, a specialised health visitor, family practitioners and community mental health nurses who specialise in substance use. The team works together to give parents the opportunity to give their children the best start in life

Question:

- If applicable, whether the service involves a manualised intervention, is an outreach service, or has a specific location.

The service offers a flexible and outreach approach to engagement.

- Whether the service is provided by a national organisation, or any other relevant details.

Provided by local authority.

- Please provide any documentation, guidelines, or protocols related to these services, and/or any relevant URLs.

Answer:

<https://www.edinburghadp.co.uk/services/prepare/>

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive