

# The Infant Feeding Team

## Who's Who and What we do

The following health professionals offer specialist breastfeeding support in Northumberland :

### **Infant Feeding Co-ordinators**

**Carolynn Reavley** who is a Midwife, **Gill Patterson** who is a Health Visitor and **Debbie Wade** who is a Midwife and Health Visitor.

Infant Feeding Co-ordinators are specialist nurses in feeding and work across the whole of Northumberland, covering each other for days off and holidays

They are based, Carolynn, in the North, Debbie in Central and South East and Gill is based in the West and South East.

### **Breastfeeding Support Staff**

**Sarah Fox** co-ordinates the volunteers across Northumberland, she is responsible for volunteer training and regular updates.

She also offers breastfeeding support to women in North Northumberland, contacted women sometimes in the antenatal period but also in the early days following the baby's birth.

Women in the North are also contacted and supported by the **Nursery Nurses** who work within Health Visiting teams.

**Jane Stoddart** and **Elizabeth Street** are experienced Breastfeeding Support staff who proactively support women with breastfeeding in Central Northumberland areas such as Ashington, Newbiggin and Bedlington

**Louise Burgess**, a Nursery Nurse and **Karen Heeney**, are experienced Breastfeeding Support staff who mainly support women in the Blyth Valley area of Northumberland.

**Nikki Priest** who is a Nursery Nurse co-ordinates the volunteers in West Northumberland, she and some Nursery Nurses working with Health Visiting teams offer breastfeeding support to women.

All of the Breastfeeding Support staff and our Nursery Nurses provide breastfeeding support to help mothers and their families have an enjoyable and successful (in their own eyes) breastfeeding experience. They are involved with women in the antenatal and postnatal periods, working closely with midwifery and Health Visiting colleagues.

### **Breastfeeding Volunteers**

Our Volunteers are a crucial part of the breastfeeding team, they have all breastfed at least one baby, and have completed a breastfeeding training programme. This means they are up to date with research and current information around breastfeeding.

They are part of Northumbria Health Care Trust NHS Volunteer programme and all have been cleared through the DBS Enhanced Clearance which is a complete criminal history check, this is a mandatory screening process for positions involving work with children and vulnerable adults.

The volunteers administer the very successful Closed Facebook group “Breastfeeding Northumberland”

The volunteers “walk” alongside and act as “Buddies” for breastfeeding women, keeping in touch regularly, especially when health professional are not working or not available, ie evenings or weekends.