

**Derbyshire County Council
Health and Communities Department**

Library Service 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here' Pledge



The 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here' pledge aims to make it easier for mums to recognise places where they can breastfeed their baby when they are out and about. This pledge is supported by Children's Centres and Derbyshire Community Health.

Derbyshire Libraries aim to create an atmosphere in which a breastfeeding mother may feel comfortable and relaxed when using the facilities of the library. It aims to support all mothers who wish to breastfeed and provide help and support where necessary

Derbyshire Library Service recognises that:

- Breastfeeding has important health benefits for babies and mums
- Breast fed babies feed on demand and therefore we want to encourage mothers to meet their babies demands
- Breastfeeding works best when both mother and baby are relaxed
- Breastfeeding can help hungry, upset babies and toddlers settle down
- There is a 71% initiation rate of mothers in Derbyshire starting to breastfeed, this drops to an average of 39% after 6-8 weeks, and in

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some Districts, even lower. This is often because they feel there is a lack of support, particularly when they want to feed their baby outside the home.

Our commitment to our breastfeeding mothers:

- We acknowledge and support the rights of women to breastfeed their children within the library
- We will respond in a positive manner when our support is required
- If a mother wishes to breastfeed her baby in private, we will advise her of the facilities available and do our best to provide her with a quiet space. However not all libraries will have a private space.
- If a mother is happy to feed her baby in a public area, we will make her feel comfortable to continue.
- We will ensure that the pledge is available in all our libraries and that a 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here' poster is displayed to make the public aware of this.
- We will ensure all our staff are aware of and positively support this pledge.
- We will nominate our Children's Services Manager to monitor and review the pledge, and deal with any queries.
- Library staff will contact local support providers on a mother's behalf, if she requires it

If we receive comments from other library users:

- We will not ask the breastfeeding mother to stop or move to another area of the library

We have an obligation in law to allow breastfeeding in our service buildings. The 2010 Equality Act states '*a breastfeeding mother is entitled to feed her child in public when visiting the premises of a service provider. Mothers cannot be made to visit a toilet or go somewhere private to feed their baby.*'

- We will inform other library users of our 'Breastfeeding Welcome Here' pledge to support breast feeding mothers and to try to meet the needs of all our customers to enable them to use the library and make their visits as enjoyable as possible.

Parents who wish to bottle feed their baby in the library

- For health and safety reasons, we are unable to heat baby food or milk on library premises using either a kettle or a microwave.
- For further guidance and information see the NHS Start4Life Guide to bottle Feeding (2012)
https://edrmlive/livelink/lisapi.dll/fetch/2000/980016/11416064/16718818/16719168/Start4life_guide_to_bottle_feeding.pdf?nodeid=45454128&vernum=-2
- It would be useful locally if library staff were aware of alternative provision via businesses where parents may be directed if required.
- We have a comments procedure for anyone who is unhappy with the service they receive.