



Antenatal Education and Perinatal Support for new parents from Flourishing Babies Service assured

Family Action and Engage Antenatal would like to give an assurance that the Flourishing Babies Service will continue offering high quality support to new parents across Northampton and Kettering, following the sad news that our partner organisation NorPIP will be closing.

Family Action, Engage Antenatal and NorPIP have worked together for over four years, successfully running the Flourishing Babies Service, and we are very saddened by the news of NorPIP's closure at the end of June.

The Flourishing Babies partnership supports vulnerable pregnant and new mums, and their babies. Although the service will no longer include the parent-infant therapy previously provided by NorPIP, Engage Antenatal and Family Action will continue to help families through our usual antenatal education and perinatal support programmes, and we welcome new referrals to these elements of the service. In the meantime, we are exploring whether and how it may be possible in the future to re-introduce a therapeutic support element to Flourishing Babies.

Charmaine Church, Flourishing Babies Operational Manager for Family Action said:

"We are deeply saddened by the closure of NorPIP. Having worked closely with this organisation over the past four years, we know how much they have helped new parents with their parent infant therapeutic work. They will be sorely missed in the field of Maternal Mental Health. However, we would like to assure parents in Northampton and Kettering that Flourishing Babies is still here to provide emotional and practical support from pregnancy until your child is aged 2."

Lucy Dolly, Director of Engage Antenatal said:

"Whilst we are disappointed and saddened by the closure of NorPIP, we will continue to support and grow the Flourishing Babies project to ensure as many parents as possible receive the care and support desperately needed during the antenatal and postnatal journey."

To contact Flourishing Babies please call 07881 975 853 or 01604 924735

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Notes to Editor:

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Family Action is a national charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives. Since the charity was founded in 1869, we have continued to help children and families overcome the challenges they face through a wide range of practical, emotional and financial support. We offer free and immediate support to adult family members through our national helpline, FamilyLine and with some 200 community-based services across the UK as well as a range of national programmes, we currently support more than 60,000 families each year.

We help families and individuals to manage their mental health and wellbeing, working with families to reduce the impact of social isolation, poverty, addiction and other significant sources of stress and pressure. We also support families affected by adoption, special guardianship, separation, special educational needs, disability, domestic violence and sexual abuse. In addition, we provide thousands of welfare and educational grants every year to people in financial crisis.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Family Action has adapted its service delivery to ensure we are still very much there for the people who rely on us. While we have continued to work in person with the most vulnerable individuals and families, many of our services are now being delivered virtually. We have expanded our grants services and network of FOOD Clubs during the pandemic to provide the most vulnerable with emergency financial support as well as food and practical resources to help them get through.

For further information, please visit our website at www.family-action.org.uk

Registered charity number: 264 713

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Engage Antenatal

Engage Antenatal was established to improve the outcomes and futures of vulnerable parents and families during pregnancy and beyond. Engage Antenatal was founded in 2003 and delivers a range of antenatal support services across the East Midlands including Before Baby – an accredited programme assessed as outstanding by Ofsted and found to improve outcomes for vulnerable families during pregnancy and beyond. This specialist antenatal support and baby care skills programme helps expectant parents prepare for the birth and care of their baby.