



**A Sure Start Children's Centre**

## **BREASTFEEDING POLICY**

### **Background**

Weybridge Children's Centre recognises that breastfeeding is the optimum means of infant feeding.

Weybridge Children's Centre staff will not discriminate against any woman in her chosen method of infant feeding and will fully support her when she has made that choice. This policy is designed to ensure good practice, not to dictate the choices of mothers.

Weybridge Children's Centre has a duty and responsibility to demonstrate active support for breastfeeding mothers, through its policies and staff training practices, as well as informing and supporting mothers who wish to breastfeed.

This policy is written in line with the seven-point plan for protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in community healthcare settings (UNICEF, 2001)

### **Guidelines**

1. Weybridge Children's Centre acknowledges and welcomes the rights of women to breastfeed their children within the centre. If the mother is happy to feed her baby in a public area, then she should be made to feel comfortable to continue. A chair will be offered for her comfort and convenience.
2. Hiring of community venues will be on the condition that breastfeeding is welcome.
3. If a mother wishes to feed her baby in private, our staff will advise her of the facilities available. If a mother chooses not to avail herself of the facilities which have been offered to her, her right to do so must be respected.
4. Ladies' toilets are not acceptable as a private space to breastfeed and should not be offered as they do not offer a sufficiently hygienic environment.
5. The sensitivity of personal opinions of staff must be acknowledged but will not be allowed to deter women from breastfeeding. Staff will be made aware of the policy and have it explained to them before it is widely publicised to service users.
6. The Equal Opportunities Commission has stated that, while no complaint has been formally pursued, preventing a woman from breastfeeding could constitute discrimination under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

March 2012 due for review March 2013



## **Handling Objections/Complaints from other Centre Visitors**

1. If a member of the public objects to a mother breastfeeding then it is the policy of the Weybridge Children's Centre to move the complainant, rather than the mother herself, to an area where they will no longer be able to 'view' the mother.
2. The complainant should also be informed that this is part of the Weybridge Children's Centre breastfeeding policy. However, the centre may also like to re-iterate that it is their policy to meet the needs of all of their customers and make their visit as enjoyable as possible.

### **For further information please contact:**

Weybridge Children's Centre  
Churchfield Pavilion  
Churchfield Road  
Weybridge  
Surrey KT13 8DB  
01932 300106  
[centreleader@weybridgecc.org](mailto:centreleader@weybridgecc.org)

It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping staff, volunteers, families and the management committee informed/trained and up-to-date with procedures, the Centre can avoid the need for complaints. However, the Children's Centre Leader is the first point of contact should any queries arise over this policy and its related procedures

### **Policy endorsement**

Signed by:.....

Date:.....

Name: Daphne Sohl

Position: Children's Centre Leader