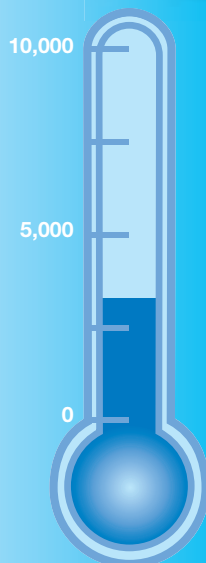




HOORAY!

- Mums to be have responded enthusiastically in joining the project
- We have recruited 2,800 women since March 2007
- We have welcomed 2,000 BiB babies into the world
- We look forward to hitting our target of 10,000 women recruited by November 2009



WHAT IS BORN IN BRADFORD?

BiB is a ground breaking project designed to improve the health of children - both now and in the future. Through examining the responses to the data so generously given by those recruited to the project we aim to pinpoint the causes of diseases such as asthma, heart disease and diabetes. More importantly we hope to find ways to improve the health of those who have to live with these conditions. Please look on our website for more details www.borninbradford.nhs.uk



THANK YOU BRADFORDIANS!



The BiB team want to say a big thank you to all the parents who have signed up to the project so far. We are relying on the goodwill of the people of Bradford to make our research possible and there is plenty of evidence of that goodwill. People are responding really positively and enthusiastically to the BiB recruiters on the wards and in the antenatal clinics. It is fantastic to know that so many people in our city are willing to take part in this project in order to help future generations to lead healthier lives.

SPOTLIGHT ON A BIB WORKER

This issue we talk to Dagmar Waiblinger, Lead Research Midwife for the project. We asked her about the project and about living in Bradford.

Why did you get involved in BiB?

I have been involved in research projects within the maternity unit before and when the Born in Bradford Project developed I knew that I wanted to be part of BiB because it addresses local child health problems and it has the potential to have an impact nationally and internationally.

What is the most important aspect of the project for you personally?

That the project involves the local community and is, so to speak, our 'own' as it originates from within the hospital.

What would you like BiB to have found out in five years time?

I would like us to be able to answer some of the 'why us' questions asked by parents whose children have fallen ill with chronic disease or illness.

What is the best thing about Bradford?

Can I mention 3? - Lister Park, The National Film Museum and Bombay Stores

And finally.....

If you had an hour to yourself how would you spend it?

I would like to continue to read the book I started such a long time ago!



SHARE YOUR STORY

In Share Your Story we invite people to tell us how having a poorly child has affected their lives. In this issue Bradford grandparents share their story.

Could you give a brief description of the problems your grandchild had when he was born?

Adam is my daughter's first born child. He was born at 27 weeks and had to spend the first 21 weeks of his life in the special care unit. He had chronic lung disease and mild cerebral palsy as a result of his early birth.



How did you feel about coping with a poorly child?

Having a poorly child impacts on the whole family but especially the parents. There is considerable worry and anxiety and the ongoing uncertainty results in a strain on relationships within the whole family network. Adam very soon became the most important person in our world and our whole lives were centred around him.

Did you feel supported by others?

We were given tremendous support by the whole team of professionals involved in Adam's care but this did not allay our fears about the future, both for Adam and for us, and the whole situation was described by our daughter as "very scary".



How has having a poorly child impacted on your life?

Sadly after the unexpected death of our daughter when Adam was still only 21 weeks we took over his care. His problems are improving on a daily basis due to intense support from many professionals, however caring for a premature infant means having to juggle all aspects of 'normality' especially around family relationships and work. As a result of the chronic lung disease even a common cold has the potential to develop in to something serious. The developmental delay means that it takes much longer for things like feeding and sleep patterns to be established.



How do you feel about the BiB project?

BiB is a fantastic venture and I hope it will provide answers as to why some babies are born prematurely and what factors play a part in some babies being born healthy and others not. This project will bring Bradford and the problems faced by our children, their parents and the health care professionals, to the forefront of people's minds and get them placed high on the Department of Health's agenda.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

If you are interested in supporting the Born in Bradford project (BiB) there is an opportunity to get more involved by joining the Advocacy and Scrutiny Committee (ASC). The ASC is a group made up of parents and health professionals who are not employed by the project. It meets about once every half term, usually on a Wednesday at 4 o'clock, and it avoids meeting in the school holidays.

The ASC members have several jobs; they are there to protect the rights of all the people

who take part in the study and to act as advocates for anyone who has a complaint. The ASC members have to scrutinise the way the study is carried out to make sure that it is fair to all. They also look at ways to advertise the project and keep it in the public eye. There is a pack which contains more detailed information about the work of the ASC so if you are interested in joining please get in touch with Shaheen Akhtar on 01274 366954 and ask for the Guide to the ASC.



BRADFORD FAMILIES INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH

The Born in Bradford team are working together with other researchers around the country on a number of exciting Europe wide studies. The team is involved in the NewGeneris project which aims to make links between environmental exposure during pregnancy, changes that occur in a child's DNA and the child's health as they mature. Researchers are looking at mums to be and their partners from Bradford and from cities across Europe. Around 300,000 families will be involved in this research.

A second European collaboration has already begun to investigate the relationship, if there is one, between air pollution caused by traffic, the possible affects of using chlorinated water in the home and at work and how this may impact on babies' development in the womb. Researchers are measuring levels of air pollution at several sites around Bradford at the moment to help with this complex piece of research.



PATRONS



Imran Khan,
Chancellor, University of Bradford



Baroness Lockwood of Dewsbury

**Please contact us if you have any questions or you want to know more about Born in Bradford.
There are lots of different ways you can become involved in the project if you want to - some
without even leaving your home!**

tel: 01274 364474 email: bib@bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk

BORNINBRADFORD

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