



iHV Annual Report 2025

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Contents

- 03** Introduction from Chair and CEO
- 04** About the Institute of Health Visiting
- 05** Influencing Policies Affecting Health
- 06** Policy Achievements
- 07** Partnership Achievements
- 08** iHV Fellows
- 09** Education and Workforce
- 10** Learning and Development
- 12** Highlights of the year
- 14** Department of Innovation and Research
- 18** Professional Services and Membership
- 20** Conferences
- 21** Publications and Reports
- 22** Year in Numbers
- 23** What you tell us...



THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE ONLY POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE DEDICATION AND EXPERTISE OF HEALTH VISITORS AND THEIR TEAMS, AS WELL AS THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS, TRUSTEES AND THE IHV TEAM. TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A STRONGER FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE IN THE EARLIEST YEARS."



Susan Tokley
Chair Institute of Health Visiting



Alison Morton
CEO Institute of Health Visiting

At the Institute of Health Visiting, we understand the vital role that health visiting plays in shaping the future health and wellbeing of babies, children, families, and communities across the UK. This year has brought both challenges and opportunities, and through it all, the Institute has remained steadfast in its mission: to champion excellence in health visiting practice, education, innovation and research.

This Annual Report highlights the breadth and impact of our work over the past year - from innovative training programmes and research initiatives, to advocacy that amplifies the voice of health visiting at national level. Whilst there is considerable variation in health visiting practice across the UK - and a long way to go in some areas - we are immensely proud of the progress made in advancing the quality of health visiting across our nations, and influencing policy to ensure that every family receives the high-quality care they deserve (and health visitors want to provide).

This year has been a milestone for innovation, as we took major steps to increase health visiting research to strengthen the evidence and tackle important inequalities. June 2025 marked the launch of our powerful film 'Invisible', to raise awareness of new fathers' mental health. We are extremely proud of this groundbreaking film which achieved global impact and acted as a powerful catalyst, driving change in national policy and health visiting practice. This is just one example of our cutting-edge work, amongst many. And we are deeply grateful for the growing number of partnerships that we have been able to build this year, with incredible people and organisations who share our vision to drive real change for the better across the UK.

It is wonderful to see our movement growing - bringing together passionate and like-minded health visiting professionals who are pulling together to lead our wonderful profession into the future. To strengthen health visiting leadership, we have been delighted to launch our new Dame Elizabeth Fradd Leadership Programme: iHV Fellows this year - hopefully the first of many - to support and strengthen individual and system-level leadership in health visiting across the UK. We congratulate all iHV Fellowship Scholars of 2025/26 on their achievements. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Dame Elizabeth Fradd Memorial Fund, the KPMG Foundation, and The Burdett Trust for Nursing for their generous support of the Fellows Programme, alongside the iHV.

To ensure that we continue to focus our efforts where we can make the biggest difference, we are currently reviewing our strategy. And this includes the launch of a new website planned for 2026, to make the work of health visiting and the iHV more visible. Looking ahead, we remain committed to driving positive change, ending inequalities, and ensuring that health visiting continues to be recognised as a cornerstone of family health.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

Alison Morton
iHV CEO

Sue Tokley
iHV Chair



Who we are

The Institute of Health Visiting (iHV) is an independent charity, professional body and centre of excellence for health visiting – established to strengthen the quality and consistency of health visiting for the benefit of all babies, children, families and communities.

We are committed to ending health inequalities which are not inevitable and are currently blighting the life chances of too many.

We are impatient for change and will continue to speak up and advocate for babies, children and families until we see the lasting change that is needed to turn this around and truly give every child the best start in life.

We believe in a better future and in the power of change. We will continue to focus our efforts and work with partners to influence policies affecting health, drive lasting improvements, and act as a voice for our profession.

We believe that health visiting is a vital part of the solution to reverse the deteriorating state of child and family health. When properly resourced, it provides an essential infrastructure of support - central to improving health and ending inequalities.

We are committed to excellence and driving change using the best evidence. Through the highest standards of education, professional development, innovation, research, and leadership, we enable evidence-based practice and world-class health visiting.

About the Institute of Health Visiting

Our Strategic Priorities

Our work encompasses the full spectrum of health visiting policy and practice, learning and development, and innovation and research - giving us a unique and distinctive understanding of the strategic context for health visiting as it stands today and as it evolves for the future. We direct our efforts where they can create the greatest impact, guided by a business plan built around four core priorities:

-  **Influence policy to improve health, end inequalities and strengthen health visiting**
-  **Support innovation, research and quality improvement in health visiting**
-  **Build professional skills and knowledge to enhance health visiting workforce capability and leadership development**
-  **Grow, sustain and support our membership and meet their needs.**

We are committed to bringing our vision and values to life in everything we do. This means embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion at the heart of our work; championing sustainability for a better future; upholding the highest standards of governance; and fostering a culture where people feel valued, supported, and inspired. By doing so, we aim to create an organisation that not only delivers on its strategic priorities but is also a truly great place to be part of.

iHV and The For Baby's Sake Trust – improving support for families who experience domestic abuse and calling for sustained action to 'break the cycle'.



Dr Michelle Moseley and Judith Rees (COO, The For Baby's Sake Trust) in Parliament.

Influencing Policies Affecting Health

This year revealed stark challenges in child and family health and widening healthcare inequities across the UK. Our role in shaping policy and amplifying our profession's voice has never been more vital. We may be a relatively small professional body - without the vast infrastructure of the Royal Colleges - but we carry a big ambition and strive to 'punch above our weight' every single day.

Our Approach:



- 1. Understanding**
- 2. Collaborating**
- 3. Providing solutions**
- 4. Energising**

Bringing energy, ideas, leadership and 'hope' to our profession to drive change for the better.

We were delighted to see the renewed commitment from all four UK nations to 'giving every child the best start in life' this year - a landmark moment that recognises the importance of the earliest years, the value of prevention, and the need for relational, joined-up care in communities. This is exactly where health visiting belongs: shaping a brighter future for every child.

iHV and RCPCH – improving uptake of childhood vaccinations.



Professor Helen Bedford and Alison Morton at the House of Lords.

Speaking Up for Babies and Children:

Thanks to your support, we now have a seat at every table that matters, influencing decisions and supporting governments at both national and local levels - and we have been deeply privileged to speak up for babies and children in numerous critical national forums this year, providing both written and oral evidence. For a summary of our policy influencing highlights, see page 6.

Influencing National Policy Through the COVID-19 Inquiry

2025 saw the culmination of more than two and a half years of involvement as a key witness for the UK COVID-19 Inquiry (for both Module 3 and 8). Alison Morton represented the profession at the highest level by giving oral evidence for Module 8 in October. Alison's testimony shone a light on the profound harms experienced by babies, young children and families during the pandemic - and urged that these lessons drive lasting change in policy, securing stronger safeguards for the youngest in society and the essential services they rely on.



Partnering with others to amplify the voice for change

We recognise that ending inequalities and improving the health of all babies, children, and families requires bold, systemic change. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with so many dedicated partners across the sector, galvanising strength and driving change through a powerful collective voice.

Influencing policies affecting health – 2025 highlights

Jan 25

- iHV publishes “State of Health Visiting, UK Survey Report”
- Written response to the SEND Inquiry
- iHV cosigns letter calling for improved Healthy Start scheme
- UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 3, iHV witness statement published
- iHV member of Stakeholder Council for NHS 10-Year Plan
- iHV re-elected to First 1001 Days Steering Group

Feb 25

- Spring Spending Review – iHV written submission
- iHV attends Women’s Health Roundtable
- iHV joins CNO Excellence Advisory Group and 10-Year Plan Roundtable
- iHV joins DfE Best Start in Life Roundtable and supports school readiness programme
- iHV joins call for action to improve marketing of infant formula

Mar 25

- iHV keynote presentations at Wales Health Visiting Celebration Week 2025
- 10-Year Health Plan – iHV organisational response
- Written evidence for DfE Best Start in Life and early years priorities
- iHV keynote presentation on early language at LGA conference

Apr 25

- iHV written submission to Health and Social Care Committee inquiry on First 1000 Days
- iHV participates in refresh of the ‘Healthy Child Healthy Futures’ policy framework for Northern Ireland
- iHV ongoing membership of Maternity and Neonatal Stakeholder Council

May 25

- iHV joined national summit with government: “A shared Vision from Conception to Reception”
- iHV guest interview for LGA on “10 years of children’s public health in local government”

Jun 25

- iHV oral evidence: Health and Social Care Select Committee.
- iHV CEO submits written evidence for UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 8
- Joint letter to PM: Call for sustained focus on early years
- iHV participates in Parliamentary Roundtable on child health
- iHV at pre-launch of 10-Year Plan with Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
- Presentation at Parliamentary Roundtable on school readiness
- World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative parliamentary event
- House of Lords (HoL) event on childhood vaccinations
- iHV Chair attends HoL reception on Healthcare Inequalities

Jul 25

- iHV attends launch of RCPCH report ‘Vaccination in the UK: access, uptake and equity’ in House of Lords
- iHV comments on NHS 10-Year Plan: What does it mean for babies, children, families and health visiting?
- iHV written submission to Men’s Health Strategy for England

Aug 25

- iHV works with Number 10 Mission Delivery Unit on child development
- iHV supports the development of the CNO Professional Strategy for England as Steering Group Member
- Letter to Rt Hon Jess Phillips MP: babies and young children to be recognised in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- iHV provides written and oral feedback on consultation for the Healthy Child Programme (England)

Sep 25

- iHV and CNO Duncan Burton host CNO Professional Strategy engagement event
- iHV CEO keynote presentation at Northern Ireland’s launch of ‘Healthy Child Healthy Future’
- iHV joins Parliamentary Roundtable on Perinatal Mental Health
- iHV Expert Adviser attends NSPCC Roundtable on child safeguarding
- iHV attends CNO Summit in London
- iHV meeting with Maya Ellis MP, Chair of the APPG for the First 1001 Critical Days

Oct 25

- iHV CEO gives oral evidence at the UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 8 – coverage on BBC Radio 4 Today Programme and BBC podcast
- iHV written submission to CNO Strategy for England
- Keynote presentation at Public Health Wales Best Start in Life event

Nov 25

- iHV submission to the NHS 10-Year Workforce Plan consultation
- iHV participates in Early Years Summit hosted by National Children’s Bureau
- Infants, Children and Young People Commissioners Group (England) with ADPH
- iHV participates in Operation Pegasus – national pandemic simulation exercise

Dec 25

- iHV participates in Maternity and Neonatal Patient Reported Experience Measure working group
- Ongoing participation in Health Policy Influencing Group for CYP
- National project board: Childhood Immunisations in health visits
- Centre for Educational Neuroscience UK Early Years Working Group

Invisible: Fathers’ Mental Health Film



We launched our powerful new film, Invisible, on International Fathers Mental Health Day, 16 June, raising awareness of the complex interplay of factors that impact men in the transition to fatherhood. The film, funded by The Burdett Trust for Nursing and produced in collaboration with Inner Eye Productions, is based on extensive academic research, interviews with practitioners, and impactful lived experience accounts from a diverse range of parents. It has since been incorporated into our updated Fathers’ Perinatal and Infant Mental Health training programme, presented at national and international conferences, and was a finalist for the EVCOM awards.



EMOTIONAL, AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING AS A HV. DADS CAN BE IMPACTED BY WHAT THEY WITNESS AND ARE EASILY FORGOTTEN. I DIDN’T REALISE 1:10 DADS ARE AFFECTED BY MENTAL HEALTH. THAT IS SO MUCH HIGHER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!”

INVISIBLE FILM FEEDBACK



IT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF WHEN I FIRST BECAME A DAD, FROM THE CPR, TO THE PLANNING OF SUICIDE, AND SAYING SORRY TO THE BABY - THE FILM RESONATED WITH ME DEEPLY BUT TOLD A STORY THAT MOST DADS ARE SCARED TO SHARE.”

INVISIBLE FILM FEEDBACK

Partnership Achievements

Spotlight on Royal support

The iHV continues to benefit from a close partnership with The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood, spearheaded by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales. The support of The Princess and her consistent advocacy for the work of health visitors in promoting infant wellbeing and social development is highly valued. In 2025, this has included commissions by The Centre to expand and evaluate the training and implementation of the Alarm Distress Baby Scale within health visiting services across the UK, led by the research team at iHV - and a new workforce development programme being developed by the Anna Freud Centre in collaboration with iHV.

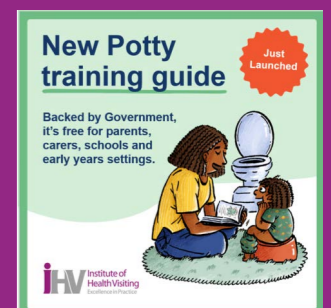
In addition, we have collaborated with [The Centre on The Shaping Us Framework](#) and [Explainer Series](#) launched this year - we were delighted to be an early adopter of these new resources that bring the science of early brain development to life.



Picture by Ryan Jenkinson / Kensington Palace

Partnership working leads to new national Potty Training Guide

We were proud to join a national coalition of charities and experts to review best practice for toileting - responding to rising numbers of children starting school in nappies and outdated advice to ‘wait until ready’, as modern nappies mask wetness. Working with charities including Kindred Squared and ERIC, we developed a new national Potty Training Guide, now endorsed by the Department for Education. The guide offers clear, practical advice for all parents, including those with children who have additional needs.



The Dame Elizabeth Fradd Leadership Programme: iHV Fellows

Twenty two leaders for health visiting's future took up a scholarship award for the new iHV Fellows Programme launched in July 2025. The Fellowship Scholars joined the prestigious 12-month programme that provides a framework for personal development and leadership practice. This has all been made possible by the generous funding from the Dame Elizabeth Fradd Memorial Fund, overseen by the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers, the KPMG Foundation's [25@25 special grants initiative](#) and the Institute of Health Visiting – supporting a 75% scholarship towards the programme fees.



2025/26 iHV Fellowship Scholars with guest speaker Dr Cheryll Adams CBE, iHV Founder and first Executive Director.

Early sessions within the programme took the Fellowship Scholars through an examination of their individual identities, aided by a 360-degree assessment process. Professional coaching has been put in place to harness untapped potential, address blind spots, and invest in growth. A two-day residential allowed for professional communications training as well as a chance to build a network and project plan.

With an exciting line-up of speakers including Chief Nursing Officers, academic experts in health visiting, paediatric consultants and champions of early childhood, there is more to come; exploring the leadership requirements for impactful change.

The Scholars have shared that the fellowship is *challenging and rewarding in equal measure* and that *the iHV's programme has helped create a safe and reflective space where we can share experiences and learning can genuinely take place*. After the first term of the programme, including the residential, they feel emboldened to face the future - with numerous examples already of the programme's positive impact on Scholars' practice, professional development, and career advancement.

Education and Workforce

Events

Early in 2025, the iHV facilitated international learning through partnerships with the Japanese Academy of Public Health Nursing, bringing together health visitor students, lecturers, practitioners and researchers.

Careers

Attention on careers includes a project to develop a validated tool for identifying advanced level practice in health visiting. The project, delivered in partnership with Professor John Unsworth of Northumbria University, involved iHV members participating in a four-nation survey of health visitor practice.

Practice Learning

During 2025, the iHV has actively contributed to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) review of practice learning, participating in the national steering group and, in July, facilitating a health visitor specific engagement event. iHV members used their voices to tell the NMC about experience of:

- Inconsistencies in preparedness of supervisors, assessors, and students for community placements
- the unique value of health visitor placements for appreciating the challenges to family and community health
- the readiness of pre-reg students to make the most of placements with health visitors.

As the NMC develops a new programme of work reviewing The Code and registrant revalidation, the iHV will continue to raise awareness and influence policy on the safety-critical functions of health visitors. Specifically, the need for professional regulatory processes that benefit the health of babies, children, families and communities.



Members of the Japanese Academy of Public Health Nursing meet health visitor students, lecturers and iHV team members.

Some of these experiences have now been published by Professor Masako Kageyama and Dr Karen Whittaker as an early release paper in [The Japanese Journal of Public Health](#) and as part of an iHV [Voices blog in March](#).

iHV members continue to make good use of the Practice Education Network (PEN) to contribute to topical debates in health visitor education. During 2025, iHV members joined sessions focused on:

- appraising readiness to support learning in practice
- black women's experiences of practice education
- advanced level practice in health visiting.

Members comment that the PEN sessions are highly relevant to their roles and identify that the time given contributes to their professional development and revalidation requirements.



Survey data were used to identify tool elements that align with accepted international definitions of advanced practice. Full results for development of the new Advanced Practice Health Visitor Scale (APHVS) will be published in a peer reviewed journal. Development of the APHVS coincided with the NMC published principles for advanced practice and will be shared to support the development of future NMC standards of proficiency.

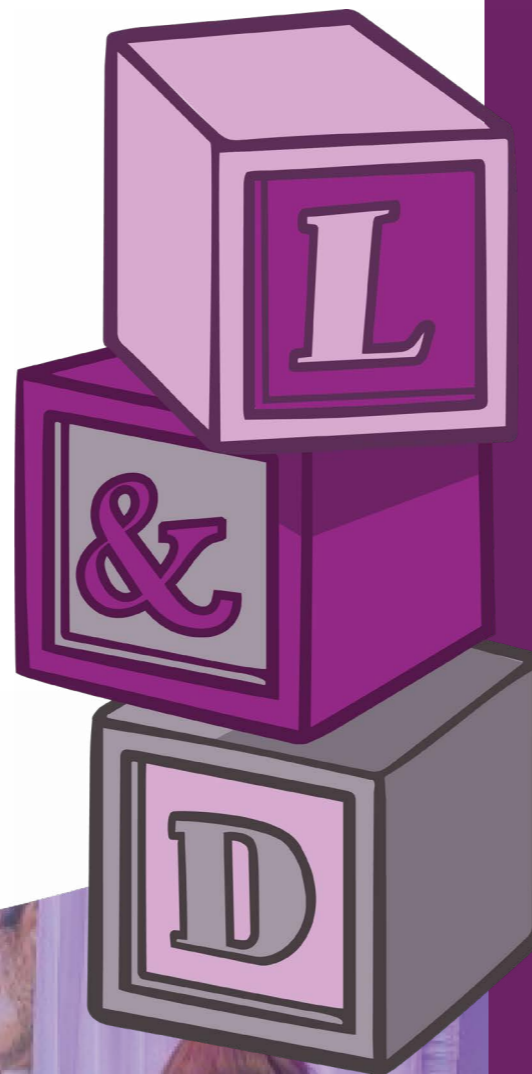
Learning and Development

We have had an eventful 2025 within the Learning and Development Team and we have risen to the challenge in supporting our members and commissioners in the delivery of evidence-based, CPD-accredited training in light of the challenging financial constraints across organisations.

In May, we bid farewell to Phillipa Bishop and welcomed Dr Michelle Moseley as our new Director of Programmes (Learning and Development). Dr Moseley and the team are currently fulfilling commissions, delivering core training programmes as well as developing new programmes for 2026.

We have facilitated and delivered education, learning and development (ELD) programmes to 1,073 delegates over 2025! The feedback we have received has been extremely positive and some examples are featured below. The enthusiastic engagement of delegates continues to demonstrate the importance of continued professional development.

We continue to offer a varied portfolio of education, learning and development in face-to-face or virtual formats which allows flexibility and reach, which is a bespoke part of our existing virtual ELD offer. We have developed more SCPHN Leaders via our Leading Excellence in Practice Programme. We were commissioned to deliver three further cohorts as well as offering additional places to interested members, and it has been so rewarding to observe the growth in the delegates over the course of the programme.



OUR LEiP (2025) PARTICIPANTS SAID...



I HAVE GROWN IN CONFIDENCE IN MY OWN ABILITIES AND MORE AWARE OF HOW I CAN INFLUENCE THINGS IN A POSITIVE WAY AND SUPPORT COLLEAGUES IN MY TEAM."



I REALLY ENJOYED THE DISCUSSIONS AND LISTENING TO OTHERS' IDEAS AND THE RESOURCES AND LINKS TO POLICY IS GREAT"



I HAVE BEEN GIVEN MORE CONFIDENCE TO APPLY A MORE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO MY LEADERSHIP."



REALLY SUPPORTIVE AND ENGAGING MENTOR, WELL MATCHED TO MY DEVELOPMENT"



THE TRAINING WAS SO ENERGISING AND REALLY COMPREHENSIVE IN THE INFORMATION SHARED. I ENJOYED THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN DAD MATTERS AND IHV - THE CO-DELIVERY WORKED REALLY WELL."

IHV FATHERS' PERINATAL AND INFANT MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS - OCT 2025



GREAT TRAINING. VERY INTERACTIVE AND PROVIDED A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW FROM A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES."

IHV PERINATAL AND INFANT MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS - SEPT 2025



REALLY GREAT TRAINING. INFORMATIVE, WELL DELIVERED AND INTERESTING. LOOKING FORWARD TO USING THE RESOURCES."

COMMISSIONED THIS MUM MOVES AMBASSADORS - NOV 2025



CONFIDENT AND EFFICIENT FACILITATORS AND SPEAKERS, REALLY GOOD INTERESTING CONTENT AND PRESENTATION SKILLS."

COMMISSIONED SPOTLIGHT LEARN: SUPPORTING THE PMH OF AUTISTIC MOTHERS AND BIRTHING PEOPLE WORKSHOP - NOV 2025



IT WAS ALL REALLY RELEVANT TO OUR PRACTICE. THE LIVED EXPERIENCE WAS REALLY INFORMATIVE."

COMMISSIONED CHANGING CONVERSATIONS: AUTISM & SUPPORTING BEHAVIOUR AMBASSADORS - SEPT 2025



VERY INFORMATIVE SPEAKERS, REALLY INTERESTING TOPIC. [I LEARNT] HOW TO EMBED PRACTICALLY."

COMMISSIONED GENOMICS AMBASSADORS - OCT 2024

ELD Programme Development & Delivery in summary:

- Varied portfolio of face-to-face and virtual ELD programmes.
- Additional commissioned cohorts of **Leading Excellence in Practice** for SCPHN leaders; observed strong professional growth among participants.
- Increased commissions for **This Mum Moves** and **Spotlight Learn** series.
- Collaboration with The Active Pregnancy Foundation and lived-experience speakers strengthened programme quality.
- Celebrated **one year** of the Health Visiting Preceptorship Framework (Oct 2025). Developed through UK-wide collaboration and recognised nationally and internationally for its practical, evidence-based approach.

Plans for 2026

- New programmes due to be launched in 2026 to expand our ELD programme.
- **Launching February 2026:** Safeguarding Supervision Champions Training – equipping supervisors with research-based safeguarding knowledge and practical safeguarding leadership skills.
- **Launching March 2026:** In response to popular demand and an identified gap in education for practice assessors and supervisors, we have developed a new programme to prepare health visitors to supervise, assess, and support SCPHN students.
- **Postnatal contraception training and developing a postnatal contraception champions programme** - Large commissions to support health visitors' delivery of the national ambition to improve postnatal care across Integrated Care Boards and in Neighbourhood Health teams.
- **Motor Development Ambassador training:** launching May 2026, with full dates for 2026 coming soon.

Members of the Learning and Development team also work across the organisation to support iHV policy work, innovations and research.

For example, we engage with policy leads, speak at national events, and connect with universities and SCPHN students across the four nations to share the work of the iHV and benefits of iHV membership.

We also collaborate with internal and external stakeholders on projects and partnership – to provide high-quality and consistent education and training.



Highlights of the year

Jan 25 - Dec 25



Jan 2025

- iHV publishes “State of Health Visiting, UK Survey Report – From disparity to opportunity: The case for rebuilding health visiting”
- iHV awarded funding from The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood for Phase Two of the ADBB study
- iHV Insights - Public health role in reducing A&E attendances
- Corporate Service Leads Networking
- iHV on The Food Foundation Podcast
- iHV joins reception at Norwegian Embassy on perinatal mental health with the Maternal Mental Health Alliance



Feb 2025

- Launch of The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood ‘Shaping Us’ films – featuring iHV and role of health visitors
- iHV hosts national hybrid Health Visiting Advisory Forum (HVAF) event
- iHV open access Insights webinar recording: The Public health role in reducing A&E attendances
- iHV Insights - Safeguarding: Bruising in Non-Mobile Infants – Accidental, Medical or Non-Accidental
- Specialist HV Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Special Interest Group
- iHV podcast: iHV SCPHN Student Health Visitor Award 2024 winners



Mar 2025

- 10-Year Health Plan – iHV organisational response submitted
- iHV supports Safer Sleep Week 2025
- iHV hosts Japanese Academy of Public Health Nursing
- iHV Insights - Protecting lives: Health Visitors’ role in vaccination success
- Practice Education Networking
- iHV SEND Special Interest Group



Apr 2025

- iHV welcomes Dr Michelle Moseley as new Director of Programmes (Learning and Development)
- iHV celebrated the launch of the Wales Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Delivery Plan
- iHV Insights - Our Air, My Lungs
- Research Networking
- iHV supports World Immunisation Week (24-30 April 2025)



May 2025

- iHV Evidence-based Practice Conference 2025: Healthier Beginnings
- CNO England celebrates International Nurses Day 2025 with health visitors and the iHV
- iHV selected as one of The KPMG Foundation’s 25@25 charities
- iHV supports new national framework for CYP with cerebral palsy
- iHV involved in the development of the new Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week 2025
- iHV podcast: Championing Clean Air: A Podcast with Rosamund Aduo-Kissi-Debrah CBE
- iHV podcast: Shining a spotlight on the importance of maternal mental health



June 2025

- iHV CEO gives oral evidence to Health and Social Care Select Committee, First 1000 Days Inquiry.
- iHV joins The Royal Foundation working group to develop “A Vision for the Early Years”
- iHV supports Infant Mental Health Awareness Week #IMHAW2025
- iHV launches new film ‘Invisible’ to raise awareness of Fathers’ Mental Health
- iHV publishes new Motor Development Toolkit
- iHV Insights - Improving the lives of babies and children with SEND
- Practice Education Networking



July 2025

- iHV launches “The Dame Elizabeth Fradd Leadership Programme: iHV Fellows”
- iHV guest paper on childhood immunisation in Nursing in Practice
- iHV supports Twins, Triplets and More Week
- iHV supports Birth Trauma Awareness Week
- iHV podcast: Group B Strep Awareness Week 2025: A Message to Health Visitors
- Generation Study Forum



Aug 2025

- iHV works with Number 10 Mission Delivery Unit on the Mission target for child development
- iHV an early adopter of The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood new Explainer resources
- iHV welcomes Level 7 Apprenticeship Funding Briefing
- iHV Insights - Infant Feeding: evidence into action!
- Retired Members Networking
- iHV consulted on redraft of the Healthy Child Programme and Commissioning Guidance for England.



Sep 2025

- iHV PIMH Champions Programme evaluation published
- iHV appoints Expert Adviser for Scotland Health Visiting Policy
- iHV keynote presentation at Northern Ireland government’s launch of ‘Healthy Child Healthy Future’ framework
- iHV supports national vaccination campaign to protect newborns this winter
- iHV Insights - Smoking in Pregnancy and Beyond: progress, challenges and opportunities
- iHV podcast: Preceptorship in Health Visiting



Oct 2025

- iHV UK Preceptorship Framework for Health Visiting: celebrating One Year of Impact event
- iHV appoints new Infant Feeding Expert Adviser
- iHV attends BookTrust’s centenary reception hosted by HM The Queen at Clarence House
- iHV and The Active Pregnancy Foundation host This Mum Moves Annual Networking Event, themed ‘Maternal Health Equity in Motion’
- iHV launches new Parent Tips with updated guidance on toilet training
- SCPHN Student Networking
- Fathers MH film shortlisted for EVCOM award



Nov 2025

- iHV Insights - Good Level of Development
- iHV podcast: iHV SCPHN Student HV Award winner and iHV SCPHN-Health Visitor Lecturer Award 2025
- iHV presents on respiratory health and air pollution at UKHSA conference
- iHV CEO and HVAF member, Sharon Reeve, present at Public Health Regional Training Day
- iHV keynote presentation at Infants, Children and Young People Commissioners Group (England) Launch Event, convened by ADPH
- iHV participates in Children’s Nursing Partnership, hosted by RCN



Dec 2025

- iHV Leadership Conference ‘Leading Health Visiting: Creating the future’
- iHV webinar on oral health
- iHV keynote presentation at Cornwall Conference
- Alison Morton awarded OBE in King’s New Year Honours List



Department of Innovation and Research



This year, we have been delighted to grow our research and project partnerships with a range of organisations who share our vision. The key to our success has been our continued focus on collaboration, partnerships and work with people who are experts by lived experience. We thank all our partners - together we have been able to develop cutting-edge approaches to support best practice and extend vital research in health visiting and family health.

Here's a small selection of some of our current studies:

James Lind Alliance (JLA): Developing Child UK Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)

Led by the iHV, with the University of Oxford, this partnership is designed to make health research more relevant and impactful by involving the people most affected by it - rather than leaving these decisions solely to researchers or funders. Our PSP will identify the top 10 research priorities for the 'developing child' which reflect the shared needs of families and practitioners, guiding funders and researchers towards studies that can make a real difference to children's lives – with a specific focus on the social and emotional development of babies and young children (ends July 2026).



PARENT

The iHV is a co-applicant on the "PARENT" alcohol study led by the University of Hull and partners. The study focuses on developing an Alcohol Risk rEduction pathway with pareNts and health visiTors (PARENT), aiming to improve conversations and support for parents regarding alcohol use, especially during pregnancy, to prevent issues like Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This NIHR-funded research involves co-producing resources with health visitors to address barriers in discussing parental alcohol habits, recognising the significant impact of parental drinking on child development and wellbeing.

ESCALATER Study

An NIHR-funded study "Evaluating Speech, Communication and Language Support at the 2–2½ year Health Child Review (ESCALATER)" with researchers from the University of Oxford, Newcastle University, Northumbria University, and the iHV (ends Nov 2027).

Refugee and Asylum-seeking Families Study

The iHV is a co-applicant on this NIHR-funded study - in collaboration with University College London, Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, De Montfort University, Queen Mary's and Flinders University. It aims to co-design a cross-sector, culturally-sensitive and culturally-grounded parenting programme for refugee and asylum-seeking families, to improve the safety, health, and development of young children (ends March 2027). [Read more here.](#)

National evaluation of the MECOSH programme

An NIHR-funded study, led by Dr Sharin Baldwin at the iHV, in partnership with Professor Sally Kendall at the University of Kent, due to start in February 2026. Contact info@ihv.org.uk for more information.

Publications and research support

We have increased our publications this year, strengthening the evidence base for health visiting practice and research. We are actively developing opportunities to build research capacity within health visiting and to support aspiring health visitor researchers. [Read more here.](#)

iHV Research Network:



This network takes place three times a year and is open to all iHV members interested in health visiting research - offering regular opportunities to connect, share learning, stay updated on national developments and funding, and collaborate within a growing community of health visitor researchers.

iHV Research Bulletin:



Our short four-monthly bulletin provides key updates and opportunities to engage in research that strengthens health visiting practice and improves outcomes for babies, children and families.

iHV Specialist Health Visitor PIMH Special Interest Group



The iHV Specialist Health Visitor PIMH Special Interest Group has a current membership of 126. We have met online three times this year, with additional opportunities to share best practice and find solutions via a lively email hub. We welcome new members - please do get in touch if you are interested in joining the group.

iHV PIMH Champions Forums and Bulletins



iHV PIMH Champions Forums and bulletins are offered quarterly as a means of sustaining the motivation, competence and confidence of our perinatal and infant mental health Champions. This year, alongside the valued updates and networking opportunities, we have had a range of excellent presentations including Beth Malory on Linguistic Challenges in Communicating about Pregnancy Loss, Michelle Anderson on the 'Absent from Birth Study', and Kieran Anders on the Dad Matters Impact report.

Sector Lead Improvement (SLI)

This year we have successfully completed a range of SLI projects in partnership with local areas to support quality improvement and a deeper understanding of their service offers from a range of perspectives. We apply our deep expertise in health visiting and applied methods, including Experience-Based Codesign, to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experience of people, accessing, delivering and leading services.

Each project is bespoke and tailored to the needs of the local area - from scoping a whole 0-19 service to helping local areas to tackle specific issues and strengthen services. Our activities have included: surveys and interviews with staff, stakeholders and families; facilitated discovery workshops with parents/ carers/ stakeholders and 0-19 staff; fieldwork in local settings to gather the experiences of service users; data analysis and evidence-synthesis, with desk-top reviews of local reporting metrics and mapping of service specifications against best practice; production of recommendations and insight reports; and support with staff / stakeholder engagement and mobilisation.

Each project is delivered in collaboration with Service Leads and Commissioners and supported a deeper understanding of what's going well and areas to consider in future service development and quality improvement.



THE SUPPORT FROM IHV HAS SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AS COMMISSIONERS AND PROVIDERS IN OUR BOROUGH. IT CREATED THE SPACE FOR OPEN, HONEST CONVERSATIONS AND GAVE US A SHARED FOUNDATION FOR WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT."

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER FROM ONE OF THE SLI PROJECTS

If you are interested in exploring SLI for your area please, Contact projects@ihv.org.uk for more information

Training, toolkits and resources

Healthy Weight Healthy Nutrition (HWHN)

With support from the Nutritional Wellbeing Foundation, we've been updating the content of our HWHN toolkit – including a new, short fussy eating top-tips video and an oral health e-learning programme developed in partnership with the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry. Look out for the launch in 2026.

Genomics: Supporting the role of health visitors

With support from NHS England, we delivered the Genomics Ambassador Programme for health visitors in four additional regions. We also supported the Generation Study with Genomics England, raising awareness of this major newborn research initiative and its implications for health visiting. Activities included five awareness sessions, four forums, updates to our Genomics Good Practice Points eXtra, and the creation of a Genomic Learning Passport for SCPHNs (0–25) with school nursing colleagues – with more training opportunities in 2026.

Black Women's Health

Funded by The Burdett Trust for Nursing, this important project is focused on addressing the unacceptable health inequalities faced by Black women during the perinatal period. Using a 'test and learn' approach, we have been working with Black women, leading experts in the field, and practitioners to co-produce a suite of resources to support culturally-sensitive care and service transformation in this area. Look out for the launch of new training in Spring 2026.

Little Sparks, Big Starts

Funded and delivered in partnership with Kindred², this project aims to equip health visiting teams to promote babies' brain development in their conversations with parents and carers. Building on the original SEEN (Secondary Education around Early Neurodevelopment) Oxford project, the health visiting programme includes new e-learning and parent-facing resources (due to be launched in April 2026).

Respiratory Health

Thanks to funding from The Burdett Trust for Nursing, we produced some groundbreaking training and resources on chronic childhood respiratory conditions and the impacts of air pollution on health - including a popular short animation. We were delighted to be invited to present our work at the UKHSA's annual Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution Stakeholder event. Access the film, resources and project report [here](#) – with details of how to book onto the training [here](#).



PIMH evaluation

Funded by The AIM Foundation, we completed a three-part mixed-methods evaluation of our flagship Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Champions Training Programme, incorporating the views of 2,151 participants. The study explored the effectiveness, scalability and system-level impact of the Programme, including its 'train-the-trainer' cascade model.

Findings were positive, with 98% of participants feeling confident to recognise perinatal mental health conditions and access appropriate support following the training.



"I NOW UNDERSTAND HOW THESE [MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS] PRESENT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING OPEN QUESTIONS TO ASSESS AND REFER FAMILIES TO THE RIGHT SUPPORT."

PARTICIPANT, PIMH CHAMPIONS TRAINING, ENGLAND

Establishing a 'perinatal frame of mind' was a recurring theme, where participants noted a significant shift in mindset, moving towards an approach that is emotionally attuned, preventative and relationship-centred.



"THE WHOLE UNDERSTANDING OF PARENT-INFANT RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION AND ATTACHMENT... THAT WASN'T SOMETHING YOU LEARNED IN YOUR [BASIC] TRAINING TO BE HONEST..."

PARTICIPANT, SCOTLAND TRAINING

The evaluation concludes that the ihv PIMH Champions Programme is a credible, effective, and scalable model for workforce and system-wide transformation in perinatal and infant mental health.

With sustained investment and strategic support, it is well-placed to shape a more equitable UK PIMH system and offers a replicable model for international contexts, workforce development and system transformation. For full findings see: <https://bit.ly/4ngbiOC>

Professional Services and Membership

The Institute of Health Visiting is a vibrant and growing community – and we want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our members for your support and involvement across all our workstreams over the last year. Without you, the iHV would not be the organisation that it is today. Our member voices combine to create a strong collective voice for health visiting, enabling us to champion our profession, drive excellence in practice, and influence policy at the highest level. Your membership support truly makes a difference!



Corporate visit to Homerton Health Visiting

iHV Corporate Membership

Our partnerships with our corporate member organisations are very important to us – and our regular Corporate Service Leads events remain a popular opportunity for focused discussions about key priority topics and contemporary issues in health visiting. This year, we have also enjoyed visiting many of our corporate member organisations across the UK, presenting at their conferences and events, joining local forums and discussions, and meeting so many brilliant health visitors and teams driving excellence in practice.

Here is what some of our corporate service leads said about the benefits of their corporate membership:

“ I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE CORPORATE SERVICE LEADS NETWORKING GROUP AND FOR ALL THE OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU HAVE INCLUDED ME IN AND THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN US IN MY AREA”

CORPORATE SERVICE LEAD

“ IT’S GREAT TO CONNECT WITH OTHER LEADS AND HEAR ABOUT OTHER SERVICES, AND SHARE CHALLENGES IN A SAFE SPACE”

CORPORATE SERVICE LEAD



We were delighted to launch our new digital membership packs in November 2025 for all new and current members – containing everything you need to make the most of your membership and supporting our wider commitment to sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint.

iHV Insights

Our regular iHV Insights events remain a popular way to top-up your CPD, hear from leading experts, join discussions and keep up to date with contemporary issues in health visiting. Catch-up on the ones you missed by watching the recordings:

In 2025, we held 10 Insights webinars:



100% said they would attend again

99.6% said they found it useful

iHV Networking events

iHV Networking events provide opportunities to connect, share challenges, learning, innovations, and best practice across the health visiting community. A heartfelt thank you to our co-chairs and members for supporting our events.

We held 27 networking events in 2025:

- 4 Corporate Service Leads (CSL) Events
- 3 SCPHN Student Health Visitor Events
- 3 Practice Education Events
- 3 SEND Special Interest Group (SIG)
- 3 Research Events
- 3 Retired Members Events
- 3 Specialist Health Visitors in Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Special Interest Groups
- 4 Health Visiting Advisory Forum (HVAF) Events
- 1 Event with our CSL and HVAF to shape the iHV response to the CNO Nursing and Midwifery Strategy

Shining a spotlight on iHV Health Visiting Advisory Forum (HVAF)

Our HVAF was established in 2021 to provide a regular forum for members to shape the work of the iHV, support quality improvement, and engage in national policy work. Thank you to our HVAF members for their valuable contributions and support in 2025. Your passion, drive, and unwavering dedication has enabled us to achieve the impactful work we do together.

The iHV HVAF meet four times a year. Our annual face-to-face meeting, in February 2025, was a vibrant example of co-production and sharing best practice from across the UK.

“ THIS EVENT SHOWCASED THE POWER OF COLLABORATION AND THE INCREDIBLE IMPACT OF A UNITED HV COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE DRIVING FORWARD ESSENTIAL CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF BABIES, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES NATIONWIDE”.

(HVAF MEMBER)



Conferences

We understand how important it is to make the work of health visiting visible. This year, the iHV hosted two popular conferences, elevating the voices of health visitors and showcasing best practice and research across all four nations of the UK.



I THOUGHT THE SPEAKERS AND TOPICS WERE EXCELLENT; COVERED TOPICS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO PRACTICE... WHICH WERE EVIDENCE BASED AND PITCHED TO A LEVEL WHERE EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD AND COULD COME AWAY WITH ADVICE TO OFFER FAMILIES"

DELEGATE



ONE OF THE BEST CONFERENCES I HAVE ATTENDED - WHOLE ATMOSPHERE OF THE DAY AND SPEAKERS PROVIDED A POSITIVE, MOTIVATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL DAY. WENT HOME ENERGISED AND THRILLED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NETWORK WITH SO MANY NEW PEOPLE"

DELEGATE



THE ATMOSPHERE WAS SO WELCOMING, SUPPORTIVE, AND PERSONABLE... I LEFT FEELING COMPLETELY INSPIRED BY BOTH THE SPEAKERS, AND BY THE PASSION AND KINDNESS ... IT WAS A DAY IN MY CAREER THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET"

SPEAKER



WE LOVE EXHIBITING AT THE IHV CONFERENCES... THERE'S ALWAYS A BRILLIANT BUZZ IN THE ROOM AND WE ENJOY HAVING SO MANY INSPIRING CHATS WITH DELEGATES AND OTHER EXHIBITORS"

EXHIBITOR



iHV Evidence-based Practice Conference 2025: "Healthier Beginnings"



iHV Leadership Conference 2025: "Leading Health Visiting: Creating the Future"

Our conferences provide important opportunities to gather together as a health visiting community. Even in these uncertain times, we know that the quiet determination of extraordinary people is driving powerful change across the UK—people who refuse to accept that 'this is just the way it has to be'. Our conferences bring together like-minded practitioners from all four UK nations, alongside researchers, policymakers, academics, clinical leaders, and national charities and partners who are all collectively working to create a better future.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our inspirational speakers, including parents who are experts by lived-experience, valued partners and exhibitors, who shaped our excellent programmes in 2025 - and without whom, iHV conferences would not be possible.

We are indebted to all our delegates who travel from far and wide to join us (as well as those who join online) and for their generous feedback – they tell us that they find inspiration and leave feeling re-energised, connected, and better equipped to lead.

We hope you can join us for our conferences in 2026.

If you would like to participate in an iHV conference – look out for our call for abstracts in the autumn.

Publications and Reports

iHV Good Practice Points (GPPs):

iHV GPPs provide our members with concise evidence-based information on key priority topics for health visiting. These trusted resources have been developed in collaboration with topic experts and health visitors using the latest evidence and research. With over 70 GPPs on our website, they are designed to meaningfully inform and enhance health visiting practice.



iHV Parent Tips (PTs)

With over 60 PTs on our website, these popular factsheets have been developed for members to share with families, providing expert advice on key public health topics such as feeding, health, development and minor illnesses. Our recently updated toilet training PT reached 16,000 people on social media in its first week!



THE IHV GPP AND PARENT TIP SHEETS HAVE BEEN A BRILLIANT RESOURCE THAT I WISHED I HAD BEGUN USING EARLIER IN THE PROGRAMME SO I WILL DEFINITELY BE PROMOTING THOSE!"

(STUDENT HEALTH VISITOR)



2025 Publications and Products:

- State of Health Visiting, UK Survey Report – From disparity to opportunity: The case for rebuilding health visiting (January 2025)
- Feasibility and acceptability of the Alarm Distress Baby Scale (ADBB) in universal health visiting practice in England: a mixed-methods study using Normalisation Process Theory (March 2025)
- The iHV Champions training programme and its Theory of Change (March 2025)
- Conversation Guide for health visitors to talk to parents and caregivers about their baby's behaviour and communication (June 2025)
- Final Project Report: Health Visiting Respiratory Health Ambassadors (July 2025)
- Evaluation Report of the iHV PIMH Champions Programme (September 2025)
- Publication and launch of the Motor Development Toolkit
- Publication of Animation ["Our Air, My Lungs- Air Pollution"](#)

YEAR IN NUMBERS

2025

460K Webviews

151 instances in the news



What you tell us...

“

THANK YOU FOR ADVOCATING FOR US HEALTH VISITORS BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES”

HV RESPONSE TO IHV POLICY WORK

“

VERY INFORMATIVE... A COLLEAGUE AND I WERE DISCUSSING THE HUGE IMPACT THE IHV HAS HAD ON HEALTH VISITING PRACTICE. I DREAD TO THINK WHERE WE WOULD BE NOW WITHOUT THE PROFESSIONALISM, ADVOCACY AND KNOWLEDGE THE IHV BRINGS TO THE PROFESSION”

HV ON SOCIAL MEDIA

“

OH THIS IS FABULOUS WELL DONE. REALLY GOOD PROJECT, LOTS OF LEARNING AND GOOD RESOURCES TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES.”

HV ON RESPIRATORY HEALTH STEERING GROUP

“

WHAT AN AMAZING SCREENING. I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ORGANISING SUCH AN IMPECCABLE EVENING. IT IS THE FIRST SCREENING I'VE DONE WHEN WE HAVE HAD TO FIND EXTRA SEATS . I THINK I CAN REALLY LEARN FROM YOUR APPROACH. EVERYONE'S CONTRIBUTION WAS MOVING, INSPIRING AND THOUGHT PROVOKING. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT IS NEXT FOR THIS FILM.”

PRODUCER FEEDBACK ON INVISIBLE FILM LAUNCH FEEDBACK

“

THE IHV TEAM, AS ALWAYS, WERE EASY TO WORK WITH, TOOK TIME TO INVOLVE THE PARTICIPANTS AND RESPONDED TO THEIR FEEDBACK.”

MEMBER OF RESPIRATORY HEALTH STEERING GROUP

“

AFTER THE LEARNING WE DID ON THE RESIDENTIAL I'LL BE TRYING TO ALWAYS THINK ABOUT MY AUDIENCE EITHER IN A 1:1 MEETING OR GROUP MEETING OR SESSION FOR EXAMPLE AND REMEMBER WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM

IHV FELLOWSHIP SCHOLAR - RESIDENTIAL

“

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT FIRST FORUM FOR ME, I'VE REALLY ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OTHER CHAMPIONS”

PIMH CHAMPIONS FORUM

“

THANKS SO MUCH, GREAT MORNING. ENTHUSED AGAIN!

SP HV PIMH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

“

REALLY GREAT SESSION LOTS OF RESOURCES AND POWERFUL PRESENTATIONS. THANK YOU IHV - REALLY GREAT TO BE INVOLVED!!”

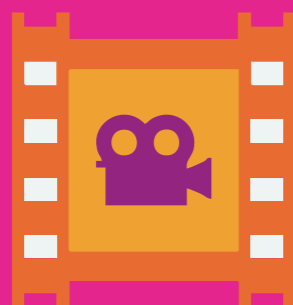
IHV FELLOWSHIP SCHOLAR

“

THESE SESSIONS WERE VERY USEFUL”

ATTENDEE FEEDBACK AT MONTHLY FORUM, GENOMICS

9
Project films and animations



(including 'Invisible')

627
delegates across



2
Conferences

1391
members attended



10
iHV Insights events

786
members attended

26
iHV networking/
SIG events

6
Project infographics



686
contributed to development of a scale for health visitor advanced practice



22
Health visitors awarded a scholarship for The Dame Elizabeth Fradd Leadership Programme: iHV Fellows

Institute of Health Visiting

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