

# It's time to invest in health visiting because...

"My health visitor provided lots of information which was great because this was my first child and I felt I had no clue on a lot of things. She talked me through any questions, made sure I was ok without feeling like I was judged and made sure I knew I would always have help if needed for a wide variety of things"

**A parent**



"Health visitors have a holistic understanding of the infant experience and their development and can seamlessly interweave the key messages around infant mental health with other crucial public health messages...More universally, health visitors are best placed to identify those families requiring additional support...and are often our 'eyes and ears' in the community."

**Consultant clinical psychologist**



"If we aren't working with those at-risk infants in those first few years of life, we are missing a massive opportunity to shape a developing nervous system. But we can't intervene early if they haven't been referred in and detected.

**Dr. Anna Basu, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist**



"The health visiting cuts have resulted in the onus being on the parents to have to reach out when it's the hardest thing to do. You feel sick, shaky and talk yourself out of that call at least 20 times before you make it. Some never will!"

**A parent**



"Health visiting is the foundation upon which specialist infant mental health services are built – they provide information and guidance, they screen for families that need more intensive support and help to engage them in specialist provision...Healthy health visiting services make infant mental health services not only more effective and efficient but possible."

**A service lead in a parent-infant team**



**Cuts have consequences**

"The absence of a home visit means parents have been less likely to open up about difficulties, while health visitors haven't been able to identify developmental issues or safeguarding concerns so easily"

**Homestart UK**



"Health visitors, by spotting children and families in difficult situations are vital...They form core relationships with families without which our most vulnerable babies, children and young people would remain invisible to services, without the support that they need, and add to the tragedy of isolation and neglect that is the ongoing experience of so many..."

**Dr Peter Green, Chair, National Network of Designated Health Professionals and Designated Doctor for Child Safeguarding NHS Wandsworth CCG**



**Investing in giving children the best start for life not only improves their life chances, but also reduces the demands on public services.**

Public services are flooded with increasing needs.  
It's time to #TurnOfftheTaps

