Rotherham Midwife helps mums-to-be quit smoking

Lisa Fendall has been working with mums-to-be in Rotherham for more than two years. She and the stop smoking in pregnancy team are well known for their honest and open approach and high success rates, compared to other areas in the region. Now Lisa is also being featured as part of a new BBC series to help raise awareness of the dangers of smoking in pregnancy.

Lisa says: “Smoking during pregnancy can cause harm to the unborn child and complications for delivery. I hope this new health in pregnancy series will make people sit up and take notice. It also features other lifestyle choices and their effects on pregnancy such as obesity, alcohol, stress and of course smoking.”

Much of the filming with Lisa took place at Rotherham Hospital’s Greenoaks centre and the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at the hospital, but Lisa also travelled all over the UK to meet mums-to-be who struggled to give up smoking.

Lisa says: “There are a lot of common misconceptions out there and it may be surprising but often women continue to smoke because they don’t really understand the impact this can have on their babies. Some mums think their babies are protected by the placenta or that they aren’t affected by the smoke. We’re trying to help women understand the damage smoking can have in pregnancy, so they can make an informed choice.

“We’ve had a really good success rate with the women we work with in Rotherham, so we wanted to share that. I hope that this series will help any mums-to-be watching understand how their lifestyle choices can affect them and their children.”

Anyone who would like more information about the dangers of smoking in pregnancy should contact the Rotherham Stop smoking service on 01709 422444.

The ‘Misbehaving Mums to be’ series will be broadcast on Thursdays at 9pm on BBC Three and is part of the Bringing Up Britain season.
Continent and incontinence can be a sensitive or embarrassing issue for some people. Staff from Rotherham Continence Service have recently been recognised for their work in helping the people of Rotherham deal with this condition.

The service which is run by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Rotherham, has scooped a top honour in the British Journal of Nursing awards. They were successful in winning the continence category for their Continence Prescription Service and for making continued improvements to the quality of continence care delivered to patients in Rotherham.

Joanne Mangnall, Continence Nurse Advisor says: “We have redesigned the prescription service for continence patients to ensure they get the appropriate treatment quickly and effectively. We make sure their treatment is regularly reviewed so they receive the care they need when they need it. This has helped to identify issues like skin irritation or catheter blockage quicker and has enabled us to give an even better and safer service to patients. We have also set up a patient user group who can feed back to us directly and help us to shape our service.

“It’s a huge honour to win this award, but it is more important to us that our patients get the best possible care and the right treatment for them. Changing the prescription service to fit their needs will help us to support them better.”

The new prescription service model also won the continence category at the 2009 Nursing Times awards and was a finalist at the Medipex awards last year. The system has also received interest from other NHS organisations across the Country.