



Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
By email: HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot

29 April 2024

Dear Convener,

ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT PERINATAL WOMEN IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND

I am writing to inform you of my intention to provide additional funding to support the first phase of work to develop Intensive Treatment Services for perinatal women in the North of Scotland.

I think we all recognise the distinctive challenges that services in the North of Scotland face in delivering care to the most severely ill women in the perinatal period. The Scottish Government has therefore committed an initial additional **£85,000** to developing more intensive specialist support for these women, their infants and families. We will engage with North of Scotland Boards and local perinatal mental health services to determine how best this initial funding will be used.

Where travel to a Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) is necessary, we will continue to operate the Mother and Baby Unit Family Fund (MBUFF) which helps families with expenses incurred when visiting a loved one admitted to a MBU. We are currently reviewing the terms and conditions of the MBUFF, taking into account feedback from those with lived experience and clinical staff, to ensure the Fund can be utilised to its utmost.

As you are aware, I am considering NSS's MBU Options Appraisal in relation to building additional capacity. This is obviously impacted by current financial restrictions, which prevent new capital spend by Boards.

In spite of this, I am determined to enhance support for women and families in need of high level, specialist help and support, no matter where they live in Scotland. Today's commitment to support the initial phase of work to develop Intensive Treatment Services for perinatal women in the North of Scotland is a key part of that.

Yours sincerely,

MAREE TODD

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