

Chris Morley, Chief Nurse

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
8 Beech Hill Road
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
S10 2RA



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Re: Recessive Genetic Conditions – the experiences of parents and professionals

In my role as Chief Nurse, I have executive responsibility for Maternity Services, so I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive regarding the recommendations in this report. I have discussed this report with our Public Health Consultant Midwife who has been undertaking considerable work in this area.

We welcome this report and the opportunity to learn from the feedback from Sheffield families and the professionals who care for them. We value working with Firvale community hub in raising awareness regarding recessive genetic conditions and would welcome a refresher session about the support they offer and how we can best support families experiencing care around this important and sensitive issue. We have new midwifery staff out to community, so this would be a great opportunity.

We are committed to developing cultural awareness and sensitivity in our maternity staff and this features in our recent training needs analysis. Genetic screening has also been a feature of our staff specific mandatory training. All new midwifery starters receive an update about the issues faced by minority ethnic groups at their induction. We have invested in a 'Cultural Safety' Midwifery post at a senior level to support further educational developments. We initiated a Multi-agency Cultural safety forum here at Jessop Wing last year at which Firvale Community Hub are represented and have worked with them in the development of newsletters for staff to increase their cultural awareness. We have also undertaken work recently to promote the use of interpreters via our interpreting service, Language Line and invested in many additional telephone handsets to further embed their use'.

If you would like to discuss our work in this area further, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.