

Care of Next Infant (CONI) Scheme

Approved By:	Leicestershire Partnership Trust UHL NHS Trust Policy & Guideline Committee
Date of Original Approval:	2013
Trust Reference:	E1/2022
Version:	1 – July 2022 Policy and Guideline Committee
Supersedes:	C38/2013
Trust Lead:	Head of Midwifery
Board Director Lead:	Chief Nurse
Date of Latest Approval	29 July 2022 – Policy and Guideline Committee
Next Review Date:	August 2025

1. Introduction and who the guideline applies to

This guideline sets out to provide health professionals with the knowledge and the process to identify; enrol and support families on the Care of the Next Infant (CONI) scheme. Healthy Together (0-19 service is no longer commissioned to offer the CONI plus scheme, this was discontinued in 2017

The Care of the Next Infant (CONI) programme is a collaboration between the Lullaby Trust and the NHS. The aim is that every family, who have had a sudden infant death, should receive adequate support with a subsequent baby. The CONI scheme exists to help NHS Community Health and Hospital services provide integrated care and support for those families.

Most SID's occur before the age of six months with the peak being between two and three months of age. Sudden Infant Death is the term used to describe the sudden and unexpected death of a baby that is initially unexplained (Lullaby Trust 2015).

196 unexplained infant deaths occurred in the entire UK in 2019, a rate of 0.28 deaths per 1,000 live births

- 170 unexplained infant deaths occurred in England and Wales in 2019, a rate of 0.27 deaths per 1,000 live births: a decrease from 0.32 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018
- Just over half (55.3%) of all unexplained infant deaths were boys in 2019 (0.29 deaths per 1,000 live births). This is a decrease from 57.6% in 2018
- In 2019, the unexplained infant mortality rate was highest for mothers aged under 20 years, at 0.96 deaths per 1,000 live births

Credit: Office of National Statistics, National Records of Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 2020

1.1 Abbreviations and meanings

CONI – Care Of Next Infant

SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. A sudden unexpected death of an infant less than a year old.

1.2 CONI

The CONI programme should be offered to parents:

- Expecting a baby where either parent has previously suffered a sudden infant death

The CONI scheme offers a range of support, including:

Symptom diary – Which helps to detect changes in the baby's health

Health Visitor Contact: - Helps to improve confidence and reassurance

Weekly weighing: - Allows weight changes to be quickly identified

Sheffield weight charts: - Allows weight changes to be quickly identified

Apnoea monitors: - Detects breathing movements and reassure parents

Infant resuscitation training: - Reassures parents to cope

Room thermometers: - Reassure parents of correct environmental/room temperature

The scheme is usually planned to finish when the child is six months of age or two months post the age of the previous child's death. At the age of six months if the family remain on the scheme the monitor is changed to accommodate development.

2. Scope

This guideline applies to all staff across UHL and LPT who work with families, including Midwives, Health Visitors, CONI co-ordinators, Emergency Department staff, Children's Hospital staff, General Practitioners.

All referrals go to the Diana administration team, based at Bridge Park Plaza, who then email the CONI coordinators. Local co-ordinators are based in the following areas, providing coverage to the whole of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

Leicester City Mandy Johnson 07826530887

Loughborough & Charnwood Debbie Tompkins 07917636470

Hinckley & Bosworth Jade Hadley 07769282946

Melton and Rutland Mandy Johnson 07826530887

North West Leicestershire Debbie Tompkins 07917636470

South Leicestershire and Harborough Jade Hadley 07769282946

National CONI office London:

Joanne Carroll – National CONI co-ordinator (London) 020 7802 3220

Karen Molloy – Northern Region National CONI Facilitator

Stella Parkin Western Region National CONI Facilitator

Rosina Muir CONI Administrator 020 7802 3206

Coni@lullabytrust.org.uk

3. LPT CONI SCHEME AND REFERRAL PATHWAY



Families, Young People and Childrens Services CONI care pathway



3.1 Midwives

- Identifies family at booking
- Telephone Diana Team admin to make referral on 0116 2955080
- Completes Notification Of Perspective Parents Form for the Health Visiting Team
- Offers support during pregnancy as required
- Family Public Health Nurse Health Visitor (PHNHV) is informed that the unborn baby is to be on the CONI scheme by the CONI coordinator and they will be informed of the birth in the usual way by electronic task from Bridge Park Plaza

3.2 LPT CONI SCHEME

- Diana admin receives the referral by midwife or PHNHV
- Referral is emailed out by the Diana team admin to the 4 CONI coordinators who then liaise with each other to see which coordinator will take the referral depending on the area of the referral, they then determine whether the referral meets the criteria for the CONI scheme
- Appropriate coordinator sends out CONI welcome and information letter to the expectant mother
- At 28 weeks gestation the CONI coordinator will review health record and or liaise with the community midwife to ensure the pregnancy is still viable
- Coni coordinator performs a home visit and completes enrolment paperwork and then informs PHNHV and GP
- CONI coordinator sends enrolment paperwork to National CONI office
- CONI coordinator will check the health record to see when baby is born
- Coordinator will receive completed paperwork at the end of the scheme, ensures it has been scanned into the child's records and sends the hard copy to the National CONI office
- Ensures and facilitates CONI co-ordinator training
- Facilitates and leads on awareness of the CONI scheme
- Diana team are responsible for servicing monitoring and ordering of equipment
- Lead CONI coordinator is responsible for reviewing scheme and informing commissioners of numbers and need

3.3 CONI co-ordinators

- Completes home enrolment visit with the family at around 30-32 weeks gestation
- Adds referral form to parent record Co Ordinator enrolls parent via professional portal on lullaby trust website
- Supports Health Visitor and family

- Documents on child's SystemOne when CONI scheme completed
- Completes evaluation questionnaire online and submits via lullaby trust portal

3.4 Public Health Nurse (Health Visitor)

- Provides weekly visits to family until baby reaches 6 months of age
- Completes relevant CONI growth chart and paperwork
- Discusses any concerns with CONI co-ordinator and GP
- Works with family to end scheme

3.5 General Practitioner

- Provides ongoing support and care to the family
- Liaise with CONI co-ordinator and Health Visitor
- Refers families to a General Paediatrician or Neonatologists for review of baby if needed

3.6 Children's Emergency Department

- Will facilitate a monitor swap box, completing paperwork included and informing Diana team admin who will inform CONI coordinators

3.7 Children's Hospital

- Will be aware of CONI and ensure Public Health Nursing team are alerted as soon as possible regarding admissions (appendix 7 Children's Hospital)
- Will reinforce safe sleeping guidelines to families on discharge and that sleeping babies prone is only recommended whilst under the management and observation of hospital staff (appendix 7 Children's Hospital)

4. Education and Training

To ensure a required number of CONI co-ordinators are available Public health Nurses with an interest in CONI will be trained by the Central CONI co-ordinator in discussion with commissioners.

CONI co-ordinators will be trained in train the trainer infant basic life support, and receive updates annually

Regular update and awareness sessions will take place throughout the community CONI coordinators will provide training to new starters once a year as part of the induction programme

5. Monitoring and Audit Criteria

Key Performance Indicator	Method of Assessment	Frequency	Lead
Families are referred during antenatal period	Keep a record of who referred the family and the gestation of the baby	Ongoing	LPT CONI co-ordinator
Families receive the enrolment visit and equipment before the birth of the baby	Database of referral date, expected due date and expected enrolment visit date	Ongoing	LPT CONI co-ordinator
Families have equipment available at time of enrolment onto scheme	Database of equipment	ongoing	LPT CONI co-ordinator and Diana team
Families report effective support and co-ordination of CONI scheme	Work with the central CONI office in Sheffield to receive feedback from the evaluation questionnaires	Every two years	LPT CONI co-ordinator and Sheffield CONI office

6. Legal Liability Guideline Statement

Guidelines or Procedures issued and approved by the Trust are considered to represent best practice. Staff may only exceptionally depart from any relevant Trust guidelines or Procedures and always only providing that such departure is confined to the specific needs of individual circumstances. In healthcare delivery such departure shall only be undertaken where, in the judgement of the responsible healthcare professional' it is fully appropriate and justifiable - such decision to be fully recorded in the patient's notes

7. Supporting Documents and Key References

1. Care Of Next Infant (CONI) CONI Protocol. 2010
2. Care Of Next Infant (CONI) Report on 10,000 babies. 2009

3. Carpenter R. McGarvey C. Mitchell E. Tappin D. Vennemann M. Smuk M. Carpenter J. (2013) Bed Sharing when parents do not smoke: is there a risk of SIDS? An individual level analysis of five major case-control studies. British Medical Journal. Vol 3 (5).
4. Department of Health. Implementation plan for reducing health inequalities in infant mortality: A good practice guide. 2007. www.dh.gov.uk
5. Mitchell, E. The Dr WE (Bill) Parish Memorial Lecture. Bed sharing with baby: Is it worth the risk? 2012
6. Office of National Statistics. 2018
7. Waite, A.J, McKenzie, A and Daman-Williams, C (2011) CONI: confirmation of continuing relevance after 20 years. Community Practitioner 2011 84 (1). 25-29.
8. Coni@lullabytrust.org.uk
9. www.lullabytrust.org.uk

8. Key Words

Sudden Infant Death, CONI, Midwifery, Health Visitors

The Trust recognises the diversity of the local community it serves. Our aim therefore is to provide a safe environment free from discrimination and treat all individuals fairly with dignity and appropriately according to their needs. As part of its development, this policy and its impact on equality have been reviewed and no detriment was identified.

Contact and review details	
<p>Guideline Lead (Name and Title) Author: Mandy Johnson Public Health nurse Health Visitor PHNHV November 2018 Reviewed by: Lyn Quinnell 02.2022 LPT Public Health Nursing Lead UHL Maternity Guidelines group February 2022 UHL Children’s Hospital & Paeds ED March 2022 UHL Maternity Governance committee March 2022 – approved pending amendments</p>	<p>Executive Lead Chief Nurse</p>
<p>Details of Changes made during review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Contact names and numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated statistics • Changed reference to Diana service to New Parks Children’s Centre for collection of equipment • CONI coordinator visit changed from 30-32/40 to 28-32/40 • Added that discharge tool is now to be completed • Amended statement that public health nurse/health visitor provides weekly visits, to until the baby reaches 6 months of age • Added reference to CONI growth chart • Stressed that prone sleeping should only be done under observation and management of hospital staff 	