

Reference:	FOI.21181.26
Subject:	Breastfeeding services
Date of Request:	30 July 2026

Requested:

1. Does the health board currently provide, commission, fund, endorse, or facilitate any breastfeeding support services, breastfeeding peer support groups, infant feeding services, or breastfeeding education programmes?
2. If yes, do any of these services or programmes provide breastfeeding training, education, or practical breastfeeding support to biological males (that is, individuals who were born male, regardless of their current gender identity)?
3. If the answer to question 2 is yes, please provide:
 - a. The name of the service or programme.
 - b. Whether the training or support is provided directly by the health board or by an external organisation acting on its behalf.
 - c. The date on which this practice or policy was introduced.
 - d. Any policy, guidance, protocol, or training material governing the provision of such training or support (where disclosure is permitted under the Act).
4. If no such services or programmes exist, please confirm that the health board does not currently provide, commission, or support breastfeeding training or breastfeeding support for biological males.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does provide breastfeeding support services. Details of the services offered are provided overleaf.

Infant Feeding Clinics

Weekly virtual and face-to-face infant feeding clinics delivered by two (2) Infant Feeding Support Specialist Midwives, providing sixteen (16) scheduled appointment slots per week. In addition, specialist consultations are regularly undertaken outside of clinic sessions in response to individual service user needs.

Infant Feeding Pilot Project

Since September 2024, the Maternity service has received additional funding from the Public Health Directorate to deliver an Infant Feeding Pilot Project. The project includes a dedicated team of three (3) Maternity Infant Feeding Support Workers (IFSWs), led and supervised on-site by a qualified Infant Feeding Lead Midwife (IFLM). The IFSWs provide a service Monday to Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm, and have undertaken additional specialist training to offer enhanced infant feeding support to parents and expectant parents.

The funding has also enabled the provision of an additional two (2) days at 7.5 hours each, per week for the IFLM to deliver training, education, and specialist support across Women and Children's Services. This investment helps to ensure that new parents receive high-quality, evidence-based feeding support from a knowledgeable, competent and confident workforce.

Furthermore, the project has strengthened the capacity of the Maternity service to provide timely infant feeding support, improve continuity of care and enhance the overall experience of families during the antenatal and postnatal periods.

Breast and Infant Feeding Support Group

A weekly support group in Carmarthen facilitated by Maternity Support Workers who have completed additional Association of Breastfeeding Mothers (ABM) Foundation Training.

Infant Feeding Education Sessions

Monthly online drop-in sessions providing infant feeding education and support.

Breastfeeding Advice Service

Access to breastfeeding advice and support via a dedicated Consultant Connect telephone service, available Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 12:00pm. In addition, a dedicated infant feeding email address is also available to access support.

Antenatal Feeding Education

Infant feeding education provided by community midwifery teams as part of routine antenatal care.

Breast Pump Loan Scheme

A breast pump loan service available to eligible service users requiring additional feeding support.

National Breastfeeding Helpline

Promotion and endorsement of the twenty-four (24) hour Breastfeeding Helpline provided by the Breastfeeding Network.

Community Feeding Support Groups

The UHB is actively exploring opportunities to support the continued provision of the Milford Haven Feeding Support Group.

2. The UHB does not currently provide any dedicated breastfeeding support services or programmes specifically for biological males. However, infant feeding services are delivered on an inclusive basis and staff are expected to provide person-centred support that is responsive to individual feeding needs.

The UHB has supported professional development opportunities for infant feeding practitioners, including training leading to International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) accreditation. This training includes consideration of infant feeding support in a range of circumstances and for diverse populations.

In addition, the UHB has previously promoted awareness and learning opportunities relating to inclusive maternity and infant feeding care, including external educational programmes such as *The Queer Birth Club* and *Queer Lactation* delivered by AJ Silver. These were educational opportunities for staff but did not constitute the provision of a dedicated breastfeeding support service for biological males.

3. Not applicable.

4. The UHB confirms that it does not provide, commission, or support breastfeeding training or breastfeeding support for biological males.