

Hello and congratulations on the birth of your new baby,

We are a group of local parents with children who have Down Syndrome. We joined a steering group to work with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust and its partner services, the local charity Down's Syndrome North East (DSNE) and your local parent carer forums. We wanted to ensure there was clear guidance and information for families who have children born with Down Syndrome, and that families know where to go for support and what to expect. This group also worked on the Down Syndrome Pathway for families in Stockton and Hartlepool.

We know that when you find out that your baby has Down Syndrome it can be a scary, worrying and confusing time but we want you to know that you are not alone and there is a lot of support out there for you and your family.

The "new parent pack" you have received has been put together by the parents from the steering group using their lived experiences to ensure that parents have access to the right information at the right time. We realise that you may feel unsure about when or even if you should reach out to the support available, so we are here when you are ready.

This is the first step to you receiving support, but in the meantime please enjoy your new baby, get to know each other and we promise that they will bring you more love, joy and pride than you could ever have imagined.

We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

*Your Local Parents*

