

## PRESS RELEASE

28<sup>th</sup> April 2009

### NEW EQUALITY BILL / NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS WEEK

- New Equality Bill announced 27<sup>th</sup> April, offers new mothers stronger legal protection when breastfeeding
- National Breastfeeding Awareness Week 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009
- Local midwives in-store at Boots the chemist, Central Milton Keynes

On the 27th April, Harriet Harman, Government Minister for Women and Equality published The Equality Bill [www.equalities.gov.uk/media/press\\_releases/equality\\_bill.aspx](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/media/press_releases/equality_bill.aspx) which is expected to come into force from Autumn 2010.

The National Childbirth Trust (NCT) the leading parent's charity and pressure group and local midwives have welcomed the proposed Bill [www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com/press-office/press-releases/view/52](http://www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com/press-office/press-releases/view/52) under which mothers will get the legal right to breastfeed a baby up to the age of six months in any public place (something that is already enshrined in Scottish law). Under current laws, women who breastfeed in places such as coffee shops, restaurants or busses can be charged under public order or indecency legislation.

The benefits of breastfeeding are well documented (see [www.midwifevalerie.wordpress.com/2008/12/31/breastfeeding/](http://www.midwifevalerie.wordpress.com/2008/12/31/breastfeeding/)) and ministers are changing the law in response to concerns that Britain has the lowest breastfeeding rate in Europe.

National Breastfeeding Awareness Week 10th - 16th May 2009 [www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk/en/fe/page.asp?n1=5&n2=13](http://www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk/en/fe/page.asp?n1=5&n2=13) aims to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding in an attempt to improve our breastfeeding rate.

As part of National Breastfeeding Awareness Week, local Independent Midwives will be in-store at the Baby Department, Boots the chemist plc, Central Milton Keynes between 10am and 4 pm, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. They will be available to answer any questions on pregnancy, birth and early parenting including breastfeeding. More details can be found at [www.3shiresmidwife.co.uk](http://www.3shiresmidwife.co.uk)