Transcript for Croydon Health Services maternity services video entitled “Care when you leave”

Narrator: “Immediately after your new baby arrives Mary Ward provides care for both of you. Partners are able to stay and we have reclining chairs to help make your partner’s overnight stay more comfortable.

“Breastfeeding is very important for your growing baby and helps you to bond. We want to give you all the support you need to enjoy this natural way to feed. Our infant feeding team runs clinics at the hospital, as well as some of our community breastfeeding cafes and gives advice and support to anyone who needs it. We’re proud to be part of UNICEF’s baby friendly initiative supporting the vital difference that breastfeeding makes.

“The story doesn't end when you've had your baby. Bringing a new child into the world is a big change for everyone but you're not alone. When you were at home with your new baby our community midwives will come and visit you to see how you're getting on. As well as weighing your baby and checking on progress we'll make sure that you are recovering well after giving birth and answer any questions you might have about your own health and being a parent.

“Our midwives then hand over to our team of health visitors whose job it is to support you through the early years. They’ll talk to you about immunisations check on your child's development and make sure you get all the advice you need.”

Sam (parent): “We have maintained relationships with loads of the staff which has really been nice. I do feel able to ask for help if I need it to call somebody and I felt genuinely like people have been asking about me and wanting to know how we're getting on, which has been really nice

Vannel Francis-Howell, Health visitor: “Basically I offer advice and information to families with regards to breastfeeding immunizations postnatal depression - any aspect of a child's development I'm able to offer advice information on.

“Croydon is in fact a multicultural area and we do offer sort of tailor-made information according to the specifics of a family. They're not only seeing us in their home, they will see us in the community clinics, they will bring their child for developmental checks. So there are different stages that they will be meeting us as health professionals.

“It's a joy working with children and families and I think if you then can go in and offer just probably basic or simple information and then see the changes over time, it's very rewarding as a as a health professional.”