

## CHBC

Croydon Happy Baby Community is based in Surrey and is supported by Purley Local Meeting and South London Area Meeting.

Croydon is home to the UK Borders Agency and therefore contains a high concentration of initial accommodation for asylum seekers. The project provides perinatal support for new and expectant mothers in this accommodation.

Volunteers run a peer to peer support group offering signposting around parenting and asylum issues.

The project funded a Community Ambassador who the hostel twice a week and enabled newly arrived mothers and pregnant women to find out about the group and giving them the confidence to attend the Happy Baby group. Mothers who used public transport to attend (two buses, plus walk, with a new-born baby) struggled, especially over the winter. So some of the funding was used to provide minibus travel from the hostel to help mothers make the journey to attend, and additional resources for English classes.

During the first coronavirus lockdown, support continued to be offered via weekly text and phonecalls, with follow-up support for those who need it, both for practical issues (for example, registering with a doctor) and sessions with therapists to provide support for mental health issues.

The current year's grant is funding doula support via telephone around late pregnancy, birth, and the postnatal period.

