

Email:

From: ROSS, Samantha

To: SACN

Subject: Consultation on Feeding in the First Year of Life

Good afternoon

I am attaching a statement in support of this draft publication on behalf the GP Infant Feeding Network. We look forward to the publication of this important guidance document.

Yours sincerely

Dr Samantha Ross on behalf of GPIFN

Attachment:

Response to SACN Feeding in the First Year of Life- GPIFN version

This is an excellent appraisal of current evidence – and is also a comprehensive summary of knowledge required for all health professionals.

We welcome a re-iteration of the strong evidence base demonstrating the multiple health benefits of breastfeeding for both infant and mother. This summary highlights the need for policy development to promote exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months and continued breastfeeding throughout the first year to 2 years and beyond in line with WHO policy. The presentation of evidence on micronutrients and risks of early weaning is particularly welcome.

We would urge all organisations to take note and for this to be incorporated into educational frameworks as well as when considering creating environmental and public health guidance. The potential projected benefits for the long term health of the population, and therefore the economic viability of the NHS and other associated public services makes supporting a breastfeeding friendly policy essential. It cannot be over-emphasised that these are benefits which have life-long impact and raising public awareness of risk reduction in cancer, cardiovascular disease and obesity is vital.

This will be a valuable resource to be used in conjunction with other materials supporting breastfeeding.