

# Growing Breastfeeding: Rooted in Connection

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The Technology and Innovation Centre

University of Strathclyde, 99 George Street, Glasgow G1 1RD



Speaker	Biography
<i>Jamie Redfern: Director of Women and Children's Services</i>	<p>Jamie Redfern is Director of Women and Children's Services at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, where he leads with a deep commitment to improving outcomes across maternity, neonatology, paediatrics, and gynaecology.</p> <p>As the Board's UNICEF Baby Friendly Guardian, Jamie is a passionate advocate for breastfeeding, embedding Baby Friendly principles into clinical practice and culture across services.</p> <p>Jamie has a particular passion for healthcare technology, innovation, patient engagement, and the strategic use of social media to showcase both the achievements and challenges within the Board.</p> <p>His work reflects a belief in transparency, collaboration, and the power of storytelling to drive change.</p> <p>Jamie is equally dedicated to staff development, fostering a culture of learning, support, and professional growth across multidisciplinary teams.</p> <p>Outside of work, he is married with three children and enjoys cycling, football, and golf — finding balance and inspiration in sport and the outdoors.</p>
<i>Kirsten Watson: Chief Executive of Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity</i>	<p>Chief Executive of Glasgow Children's Hospital (GCHC) since 2021. Held a number of roles with GCHC since 2008 (including Head of Fundraising and Chief Operating Officer).</p> <p>Previous positions with the Anthony Nolan Trust and Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. Current Trustee of the Kiltwalk.</p> <p>Educational background – First Class Honours Degree from the University of Strathclyde, Politics (2004).</p>
<i>Carolyn Wilson: Unit Head of Supporting Maternal and Child Wellbeing</i>	<p>Carolyn holds a senior policy role within the Scottish Government, with responsibility for health visiting, the Family Nurse Partnership, school nursing, maternal and infant nutrition, and child health.</p> <p>A career civil servant, Carolyn has worked in Early Years policy and Child Health for the past 17 years. During this time, she has led the implementation of the Family Nurse Partnership ('Nurse Family Partnership') programme across Scotland, overseen the national quality improvement journey for breastfeeding, and led efforts to increase the health visiting and school nursing workforce.</p>

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<i>Gillian Bowker: Neonatal Infant Feeding Lead NHS GGC</i>	<p>Gillian is a Neonatal Nurse who has had a passion for infant feeding throughout her career. In 2014, she joined the Neonatal Infant Feeding Team. This role includes leading the Baby Friendly accreditation, staff education, and policy and guideline development.</p> <p>Having completed the ScIL course in 2022, she enjoys using a QI approach to lead change. In the other half of her role, she works as part of the Breastfeeding Leadership Team, leading a Once for Scotland approach for neonatal infant feeding.</p>
<i>Jill Smith: Diabetes Specialist Midwife</i>	<p>Jill has been a Midwife for 14 years, with most of her background in antenatal wards. She became the Diabetes Champion Midwife for the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUEH) in 2019.</p> <p>She took up post as one of the three Diabetes Specialist Midwives across Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) in January 2023. Due to the population of women with gestational diabetes in GGC, she is now one of four Diabetes Specialist Midwives in the Board area.</p>
<i>Rosalyn Tudhope and Jennifer McArthur: Maternity Care Assistants RAH Maternity</i>	<p>Jennifer and Rosi are Maternity Care Assistants with 22 years of collective experience working within Maternity at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. They are currently seconded to the Royal Alexandra Hospital to work alongside the Infant Feeding Team and improve breastfeeding outcomes in Paisley and Erskine.</p> <p>They are passionate about providing women and families with accurate, evidence-based information on breastfeeding and supporting them to achieve their breastfeeding goals.</p>
<i>Geraldine Brown: Infant Feeding Advisor Inverclyde HSCP</i>	<p>Geraldine Brown, RGN RM, qualified as a Midwife in 1989 and worked mainly within Neonatal Care until 2001. She then worked in the community as a Staff Nurse in both district and school nursing until 2021.</p> <p>Since then, she has worked as an Infant Feeding Advisor within Inverclyde HSCP. This job entails intensive antenatal and postnatal support for breastfeeding women. In particular, she has led projects focused on supporting women with high-risk health issues, ethnic minorities, young women, and antenatal women referred via the Blossom Team and Barnardo's.</p> <p>The project discussed today relates to a fixed-term initiative funded via the Programme for Government (PfG), offering intensive support to antenatal women deemed high risk in their pregnancy.</p>

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<i>Cheryl Allison: Neonatal Infant Feeding Advisor RAH/RHC</i>	<p>Cheryl qualified as a Midwife in 2003. She specialised in Neonates and spent 19 years working with families in a neonatal unit, during which time she collaborated on a teaching package for staff working in Transitional Care areas.</p> <p>In 2023, she joined the Infant Feeding Team in Glasgow, primarily based at the RAH in Paisley but also providing support at the RHC. She has helped produce a suite of staff and parent education videos and enjoys delivering teaching to a wide range of staff groups, as well as working directly with families to achieve their feeding goals.</p>
<i>Nicola Smith: Glasgow Service Manager BFN &amp; Melanie Woodward: Community Peer Supporter and Tutor BFN</i>	<p>Nicola Smith is Glasgow Service Manager for The Breastfeeding Network, managing peer support services across Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde. This includes setting up and developing services and recruiting and managing the volunteers and staff who provide direct support to parents and babies.</p> <p>Nicola's interest in feeding support developed from her breastfeeding journey with her own twins. She trained with BfN in 2013, worked with the NCT service in Glasgow from 2014 to 2019, and has been a Breastfeeding Counsellor since 2018 and a Peer Support Trainer since 2019. She also volunteers with the Twins Trust on their peer support service.</p> <p>She is passionate about improving access to impartial, evidence-based, non-judgemental information and support for all families.</p> <p>Melanie Woodward is a Community Peer Supporter and Tutor for The Breastfeeding Network.</p> <p>Melanie is a mum of three (now grown) breastfed children. Her background is in paediatric nursing, but her passion is breastfeeding support, following the birth of her first baby 30 years ago.</p> <p>Since training with The Breastfeeding Network, initially as a Supporter on BfN's own telephone helpline, and then on the National Breastfeeding Helpline, she has held many roles as both a volunteer and staff member at breastfeeding support groups.</p> <p>She has been involved in supporting families as a Volunteer, Volunteer Coordinator, Supervisor, and Tutor for 22 years throughout Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde. Her experience brings a deep understanding of why feeding support is so important to mothers and families.</p>
<i>Lizzie Hannaford: principal Clinical Psychologist MNPI Team</i>	<p>Lizzie is a Clinical Psychologist working in the Maternity &amp; Neonatal Psychological Interventions (MNPI) team at the QEUH/RHC. Lizzie and her team work across both maternity and neonatal services to support women and families who experience a range of pregnancy, birth, and neonatal complications.</p>

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<p><i>Marjorie Clark: Neonatal Infant Feeding Advisor</i></p>	<p>Marjorie Clark RSCN, SCM, BSc (Hons)</p> <p>Throughout her career as a neonatal nurse, Marjorie has had a strong interest in infant feeding. Her enthusiasm in this field includes supporting UNICEF Baby Friendly implementation and accreditation within her neonatal unit. Marjorie's passion for promoting breastfeeding and supporting infant feeding led her to her present role.</p> <p>Early breastmilk and breastfeeding are paramount to supporting a baby's immune system, reducing the risk of some serious bowel problems, and promoting positive neurodevelopment. Marjorie supports her team to use a model where the most vulnerable babies, particularly those born before 34 weeks' gestation, receive buccal colostrum within 48 hours of birth, MEBM at 14 days, and breast milk/breastfeeding at discharge. Data collection demonstrates increasing positive results using this model.</p> <p>When she is not engaged in infant feeding matters, Marjorie enjoys downtime pottering in her kitchen, baking tempting cakes and cookies.</p>
<p><i>Emilia Crighton: Director of Public Health NHS GGC</i></p>	<p>Emilia is the Director of Public Health for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. She became a member of the NHS Board in February 2022.</p> <p>Emilia qualified in Medicine in 1991 and, after passing the Royal College of Physicians exams, joined the West of Scotland training scheme for Public Health Medicine. During this time, she earned a Master of Public Health (Glasgow University, 2000) and became a Member of the Faculty of Public Health in 2004. In 2006, she was elected Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health and served two terms as Convenor of the Faculty of Public Health in Scotland.</p> <p>Emilia joined NHS Greater Glasgow in 2006 as a Consultant in Public Health Medicine and was appointed Lead Clinician for screening programmes; Head of Health Services Section; Deputy Director of Public Health; and during 2015 and 2016, and again in 2022, Interim Director of Public Health.</p> <p>Emilia led the implementation and ongoing delivery of new national screening programmes such as abdominal aortic aneurysm and bowel screening. She was also a strong advocate for healthy public health policies like the introduction of a minimum price per unit of alcohol sold, sugar tax, and effective drug addiction interventions. She remains passionate about effective preventative health interventions, including those addressing the fundamental causes of ill health such as poverty and inequity.</p>

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<i>J Moodie: Infant Feeding Advisor NHS GGC &amp;</i>	Janice Moodie is a Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, and holds a BSc in Health Studies in Midwifery. She worked as a community Midwife within Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) for many years before commencing her post as Infant Feeding Advisor for NHSGGC in 2021.
<i>Ruth Bland: Consultant Paediatrician</i>	Ruth Bland is a consultant paediatrician at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow. She has a special interest in early infant feeding. She spent 13 years in rural South Africa researching HIV and breastfeeding, and as part of a multidisciplinary team in GGC, she supports women living with HIV who wish to breastfeed.
<i>Lesley Graham &amp; Marie Anne Smith: Family Nurse Practitioners</i>	<p>As Family Nurses in Team G, Lesley and Marie Anne primarily serve clients in the south and northeast of the city, with the flexibility to cover other areas based on client location. They work in areas of deprivation, where up to 50% of their caseload involves families from ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Lesley's background includes adult nursing, school nursing, and child protection, while Marie Anne's experience spans adult nursing, research nursing, and health visiting. Both have completed 18 months of additional training specific to their Family Nurse role.</p>
<i>Debbie Barnett: Donor Milk Bank Coordinator NHS GGC</i>	<p>Debbie qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1987 and as a Midwife in 1989. After a variety of posts, she undertook the combined role of Neonatal Infant Feeding Advisor and Milk Bank Coordinator in 2009. In 2013, the service became Milk Bank Scotland, the national milk bank service for Scotland. Debbie contributes to local and national guidelines, staff training, and works closely with Infant Feeding Teams across Scotland.</p> <p>She has contributed to several published papers and best practice frameworks covering topics including the nutritional content of donor milk, the use of donor human milk in neonates, and lactation and loss. She has also supported the operation of new milk banks in Vietnam, Kenya, India, and Malaysia, and has contributed to a number of papers outlining the journey of the first milk bank in Vietnam.</p> <p>More widely, Debbie was chair of the Milk Bank Technical Advisory Group, supporting the first implementation of the global standard ISBT128 in Milk Bank Scotland. She has also worked on the development of milk bank tracking systems and wider tools to support neonatal patient feed safety.</p>

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<p>Mary Ross-Davie: Director of Midwifery NHS GGC</p>	<p>Dr Mary Ross-Davie, RM, BA Hons, MA, PhD</p> <p>Mary qualified as a midwife in 1995 and has worked across a wide range of settings. She began as a core hospital midwife, then worked as a continuity midwife for a team caring for women with HIV and substance misuse problems, before becoming a community midwife in London. Mary later worked as a specialist HIV midwife and perinatal mental health midwife, as well as serving as a labour ward coordinator.</p> <p>After moving to Scotland in the early 2000s, Mary worked as a Sure Start midwife, then consultant midwife, before undertaking her PhD, which focused on measuring the continuous support behaviours provided by midwives during labour. She also took on national roles in perinatal mental health and quality improvement and, at NES, led a national midwifery leadership development programme.</p> <p>From 2016 to 2022, Mary worked for the RCM, first as the County Director for Scotland, then taking on a UK professional role leading the RCM's professional response to the Covid-19 pandemic, leading the Re:Birth project, and developing the RCM's new professional team.</p> <p>In June 2022, Mary joined NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board as the Director of Midwifery.</p> <p>In this role, Mary is the professional lead for midwives, gynaecology nurses, support staff, and midwife sonographers working across maternity and gynaecology services in community and outpatient settings throughout GGC.</p>
<p>Helen French: Final Year Registrar in Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthesia</p>	<p>Helen is a final-year registrar in Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthesia with an interest in Maternal Critical Care. She previously volunteered as a peer supporter with Glasgow Breastfeeding Buddies and hopes to use this experience to improve support for critically unwell patients who wish to breastfeed.</p>
<p>Noreen Shields: Planning and Development Manager of Equalities and Human Rights Team NHS GGC</p>	<p>Noreen Shields is a Planning and Development Manager in the Equality and Human Rights Team. She holds an honours degree in Social Sciences and Psychology, a master's in health informatics, a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management, and a PhD (psychosocial outcomes – RCT of midwife-managed care vs shared care).</p> <p>She has worked in partnership with a range of health and social care professionals and communities for over 30 years in NHS GGC. Her work has included joint initiatives on groundbreaking projects such as Healthier Wealthier Children, Educational and Engagement worker roles for those most marginalised from employment and testing a systems approach to anti-racism and equality in maternity services.</p>

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<i>Elise Miller: Infant Feeding Advisor Children's Hospital NHS GGC</i>	<p>Elise is a Registered Adult Nurse who worked in Maternity Theatres in Ayrshire before becoming the Infant Feeding Advisor (IFA) for the Royal Hospital for Children (RHC). She has a special interest in infant feeding and has been a volunteer for the Breastfeeding Network since 2009 and a supporter on the National Breastfeeding Helpline since 2020, recently becoming a supervisor for both.</p> <p>Elise is also a member of the Royal College of Nursing Education Steering Committee and has been involved in developing staff and student education in practice throughout her career.</p>
<i>Lesleyann Currie: Infant Feeding Lead, South Glasgow</i>	<p>Lesleyann Currie qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1991, a Registered Sick Children's Nurse in 1993, and a Public Health Nurse (Health Visitor) in 2002. In 2008, she joined the Health Improvement Team in Glasgow City (South Sector), with a key remit to improve breastfeeding outcomes for families in South Glasgow and to implement and sustain UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Standards across the sector.</p> <p>Her work aligns closely with the strategic priorities of Glasgow City HSCP Health Improvement and NHS GGC Public Health, which aim to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing outcomes across the Board area.</p> <p>Lesleyann has led and contributed to several initiatives focused on improving infant feeding practices and reducing inequalities. These include the development and delivery of breastfeeding peer support models and the establishment of a Breast Pump Loan Scheme in Glasgow City. She is a member of the Scottish Breastfeeding Collaborative and currently chairs its Inequalities sub-group, contributing to national efforts to ensure equitable breastfeeding and infant feeding outcomes.</p>
<i>Sarah Edwards: Scottish Programme Manager Breastfeeding Network, Peer Support Scotland</i>	<p>Sarah Edwards manages and supports the running of local peer support services across Scotland. Her role involves working with local teams to set up and develop services, writing funding applications, and collaborating with others interested in infant feeding across Scotland and the UK to share best practices around peer support and family support.</p> <p>Sarah has been involved with breastfeeding peer support since attending a local peer support group in Ayrshire with her first child. She trained as a volunteer with the Breastfeeding Network (BfN) in 2006 and has continued to volunteer at the same group where she initially sought support as a new mum. She is also a BfN Tutor/Supervisor, helping to train and support new volunteers across the UK.</p> <p>She is committed to ensuring all parents across Scotland have access to evidence-based information and peer support, helping them feel connected to a supportive community and empowered and confident in caring for their new baby.</p>