



Alison Beedie
Senior Policy Officer
Children, Families and Maternity Directorate
Department of Health

Alison.Beedie@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your reply of 28th July to my letter regarding 'The Pregnancy Book' and 'The Birth to Five Book'.

I understand from your reply that the status of the books being produced in hard copy is currently under review. Could you therefore:

- clarify whether the books continue to be offered and provided to parents in hard copy at this present time;
- and advise whether they will continue to be offered and provided in hard copy until the review has been completed?

Can you also clarify:

- what form the review is taking;
- how families and agencies are being consulted;
- the timescales for the review;
- and identify the person who is leading the review and will ultimately take the decision on the books (hard copy) future?

Our members would wish to be able to influence any review and provide evidence as to the positive resource that the books are. They would also be able to raise the appropriate concerns regarding any mis-held belief that the publications should be either discontinued in hard copy or be offered on a reduced availability to families.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Munday', written over a white circular background.

David Munday
Professional Officer



Copy of an email sent on 29/07/2011 from The Department of Health to Dave Munday (Professional Officer, Unite the Union)

Dear Mr Munday,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July about the 'Birth to Five' book.

We know that both 'The Pregnancy Book' and 'Birth to Five' are highly regarded by both parents and professionals and are keen to ensure the information remains available to all. Future provision of both 'The Pregnancy Book' and 'Birth to Five' book will be considered as part of the Department of Health's review of existing arrangements for producing printed and digital material.

In the meantime, both books are available to download either as separate chapters or as a complete document from the Department of Health website.

Pregnancy Book

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107302

Birth to Five

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107303

The NHS Choices website (<http://www.nhs.uk>) contains the most up-to-date advice and information relating to pregnancy, maternity and the early years, including an interactive Pregnancy Care Planner (based on 'The Pregnancy Book') and Birth to Five guide (based on the 'Birth to Five' book) and a range of videos on issues relating to pregnancy, babies and children.

Sent on behalf of:

Alison Beedie

Senior Policy Officer

Children, Families and Maternity Directorate Department of Health