

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL

Medical Social Work Department

Laura Feely

Senior Medical Social Worker

Inclusion Health

Rotunda Hospital



Medical Social Work

- 4 Obstetric Teams; A, B, C and D and there is a social worker attached to each team, so everyone has a designated social worker should they wish to avail of the support.
- MSW offers confidential, practical and psychosocial support to all patients (public, private, semi-private) attending the Rotunda.
- The role of the medical social worker in a maternity setting is quite broad. Pregnancy impacts people's lives, and their lives impact their pregnancy. Thus, it is the social worker's role to assist and support people through this transition.

Medical Social Work Team

- 7 Specialist Clinics:

Perinatal Mental
Health

DOVE

Pregnancy Options

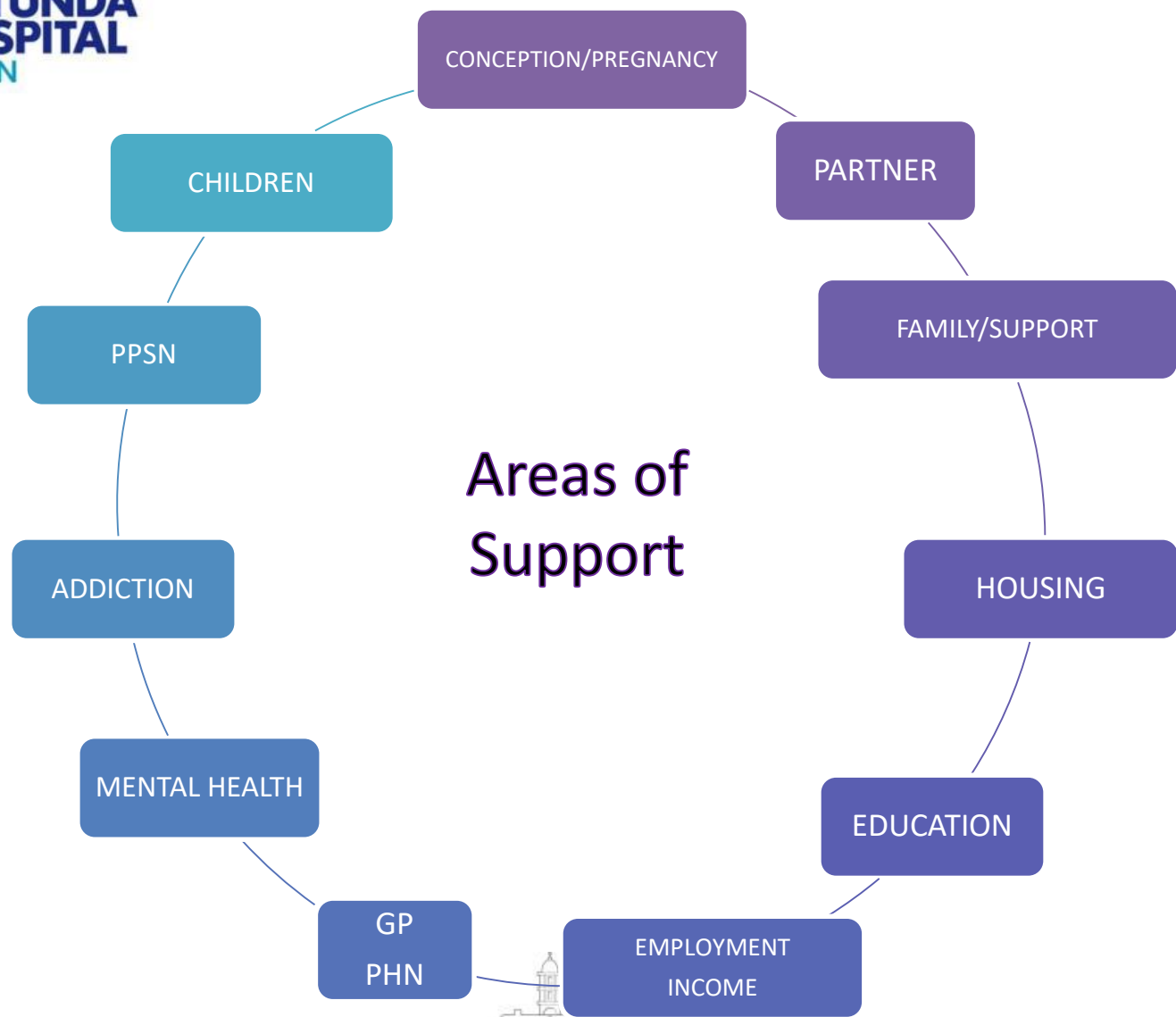
Foetal Assessment
Unit

Bereavement

Inclusion Health

NICU

Teenage
Pregnancy



Domestic Violence

- All patients attending the Rotunda Hospital are asked about their experience of domestic violence, usually during their first antenatal visit. This reflects the Rotunda's dedication to keeping mothers and babies safe, as research has shown that domestic violence can commence or escalate during pregnancy. It is your decision whether to talk to your health provider about your situation but it is important that you are aware that help is available and that you are not alone.

<https://www.womensaid.ie/>

- <https://www.safeireland.ie/>

Benefits and Entitlements

- If you have questions regarding benefits and entitlements, we suggest you look at the Citizens Information website <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/> , which is a government website also providing links to other sites related to pregnancy.
- **Telephone: 0761 07 4000** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm).

Benefits and Entitlements

If you're working and expecting a baby:

ANTENATAL LEAVE

- Before your baby is born, you can take paid time off work to attend antenatal classes and medical appointments. 2 weeks' notice in writing is to be given to your employer.
- Working partners are entitled to paid leave to attend 2 antenatal classes.

Maternity Leave

- **26 weeks of paid maternity leave**, with the option of taking an **additional 16 weeks unpaid leave**.
- You maintain your holiday leave and public holidays which fall during your maternity leave.
- You should apply to your employer a month before you start maternity leave and provide a medical cert from your doctor, confirming your pregnancy.
- **Maternity leave must start at least two weeks before your baby's due date**, and then when you're due to go back to work you must give your employer a months' notice in writing of the date you're coming back.

Maternity Benefit

- Some employers pay women their full salary when on maternity leave but that's up to their policy and your contract.
- During your pregnancy, you may be eligible for Maternity Benefit.
- Maternity Benefit is a payment through the Department of Social Protection of **€262 per week** for the 26 weeks of Maternity Leave. You may qualify for Maternity Benefit if you have paid enough Social Insurance Contributions.
- You have to be **at least 24 weeks pregnant before you apply** for Maternity Benefit and you should apply **6 weeks before you intend to start** your maternity leave (12 weeks if self-employed).
- To apply, an application form needs to be completed by you and your employer (you can apply online if you've a Public Service Card)

Paternity Leave

- Partners or spouses can take paid paternity leave of 2 weeks following a birth or adoption. You can start paternity leave at any time within the first 6 months of your baby's birth.
- Paternity Benefit is €262 per week
- Partners must have a Public Service card in order to apply for Paternity benefit- as applicants are encouraged to apply for it online

Public Service Card

- To apply for a Public Service Card you need to make an appointment with your local intreo office. You can make the appointment online at mywelfare.ie
- ID and proof of address is required.



Parents Leave (can be paid with Parents Benefit)

- After your baby is born, both working parents have an equal and separate entitlement to take **7 weeks'** parent's leave during the first two years of a child's life Parent's leave can be taken as one continuous period or as separate periods of not less than one week
- You've to give your employer 6 weeks' notice that you want to take Parents leave.
- You may be eligible for **Parents Benefit** during your Parents Leave, if you've paid enough PRSI. It's a Department of Social Protection Payment of €262 per week. You apply online at MyWelfare.ie for this, 4weeks before taking the Parents Leave and you will need your baby's PPSN, Employers Registration Number and a Public Service card.

Parental Leave (Unpaid)

- Up until your child's 12th Birthday, working both parents have separate entitlements to 26 weeks **unpaid** Parental Leave.
- Depending on your employer, you can take it in one block period, 2 blocks of 6 weeks, (has to be 10weeks in between) or you can take it one day a week (e.g. you could work 4 days a week)
- You have to give 6 weeks' notice to your employer for parental leave.
- If you're working part time, the parental leave is reduced and is on a pro rata basis.

Exceptional Needs Payment

(if already receiving SW payment)

- You may be eligible for a number of Maternity Grants, also known as Exceptional Needs Payment. They are means tested payments made by your CWO at your local Intreo office.
- First is approx. €100 to help buy maternity clothes when you're 3 months pregnant
- Second payment is approx. €100 to help with your hospital bag at eight months pregnant.
- Third payment is for after you give birth, approx. €150 to go towards buying a cot and buggy.
- You can pop into/call the medical social work department for a letter for the CWO confirming your due date and attendance at the hospital. You then bring that to your local Intreo office and they'll give you a "supplementary welfare form" to fill out.

Birth Registration

- After a baby is born in the Rotunda Hospital, the notification of their birth is automatically sent to the Civil Registration Service.
- Parents must then attend a Civil Registration Office to register their baby's birth in person.
- To register a baby's birth in Dublin, Wicklow or Kildare, you will need to make an appointment with the Civil Registration Service. There is an online appointment system for this service. To make an appointment, log-on to the Civil Registration Service on the HSE website. Other counties have drop-clinics and there is no need to make an appointment (e.g. Navan in Meath and Drogheda in Louth).
- The fee for a birth certificate is €20, or free if you're on a social welfare payment (A letter from your Community Welfare Officer is needed to confirm this)

Birth Registration

- If you are married, only one parent need attend the Civil Registration Service (both can if they wish). For those parents who were married in Ireland, the Civil Registration Service will have a record of their marriage. For parents who were married outside the Irish state, they will need to provide an original copy of their marriage certificate along with a translation into English of the certificate (by a certified translator) if the original marriage certificate is not in English.
- For those parents who aren't married and the partner's name is to be included on the baby's birth certificate, both parents must attend the Civil Registration Service. Each parent will need to bring some form of photo I.D. (e.g. a passport or a driver's licence) and their PPS number.
- For parents of a donor conceived child-the birth parent and relevant parent can register as parents. You can request a birth registration form and statutory declaration by emailing the GRO at dahr@welfare.ie

Baby's PPSN

- Once you register the birth of your baby, the baby will be issued a PPS number.
- This will be sent in the post by the Dept. of Social Protection and can take a number of days/weeks.

Child Benefit

- Child Benefit is the universal payment made by the Department of Social Protection to all mothers
- Rate of payment: **€140 per month**
- If you have twins, you receive €210 per child per month
- Child Benefit is not paid for the month in which a baby is born but is payable from the second month onwards
- If you are receiving Child Benefit for another child, your new baby is automatically added to your Child Benefit claim once their birth is registered
- If you are not claiming Child Benefit for another child, a new claim is created by the Department of Social Protection. A Child Benefit form will be sent to you after you have registered the birth of your baby and you can decide if its paid into your bank account or through the post office.

Other Payments

- **Illness Benefit** is the payment made by the Department of Social Protection to those who are ill and unable to work (if eligible, women will claim Illness Benefit when complications arise with their pregnancy).
- To qualify for Illness Benefit, you need to have made at least 104 weeks of PRSI contributions (two years)
- In order to claim Illness Benefit, your GP needs to complete an Illness Benefit form (these 'set-up' forms are only available from GPs). When Illness Benefit is being paid over an extended period of time, there is an A5 form which doctors sign to verify the need for the continuation of payments.

- **Health and Safety Benefit** is a weekly payment for employed women who are pregnant and who are granted health and safety leave by their employer. This leave would be granted if an employer cannot remove a risk to a woman's health while pregnant.

One Parent Family Payment

- This is a weekly social welfare payment for anyone who is bringing up their child without the support of a partner. To qualify, you can't be living with a spouse or partner and you have to demonstrate that you have sought (or obtained) maintenance from the father of the baby

Guardianship

- Married parents of a child are automatically joint guardians and have equal rights in relation to their child.
- When parents aren't married to each other, only the birth parent has automatic rights to guardianship (even though a partner's name may be registered on the child's birth certificate, this does not give them any guardianship rights in respect of their child).
- A partner can be appointed joint guardian with the consent of the birth parent by signing a statutory declaration in the presence of a solicitor, peace commissioner or commissioner of oaths.
- If the birth parent does not agree to the statutory declaration, a partner can apply to courts to be appointed joint guardian.
- Under the Child and Family Relationships Act 2015, an unmarried parent will automatically be a guardian if they have lived with the birth parent for twelve consecutive months, at least three of which must be after the birth of their baby.

Thank you for listening 😊

Best Wishes for your pregnancy 😊

MSW Dept Telephone: 01-8171722