



[NCT Oxford](#) via Jayne Joyce

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\*\*\* BREASTFEEDING CLINIC UPDATE\*\*\*

As most of you know, one of the issues on which we have campaigned has been the continuation of a specialist breastfeeding service. Following the resignation of Oxford's Infant Feeding Specialist (Sally Inch) and Chloe Fisher's retirement from her volunteer role at Oxford Breastfeeding Clinic (which she founded), it looked as if we might lose the service. The clinic has a world-wide reputation; it's unusual for a month to go by without at least one observer from another country coming to see what happens there! Those of us who work in the community supporting breastfeeding regard it as an essential safety-net and resource.

The continuation of the specialist service was one of the issues we discussed when we met with commissioner and midwifery service representatives a couple of months ago. At that meeting we received an undertaking that the service would continue, at least until the arrival in post of Sally Inch's successor.

During the last few weeks, prior to Chloe and Sally's final clinic date of March 28th, it frequently appeared that arrangements might not be concluded in time to ensure the service's continuation. However, with credit to all involved, it all came together at the last moment, and normal service will be resumed on Thursday April 4th (with some breaks for annual leave).

We're delighted to welcome at the helm Alex Mulford, former NCT breastfeeding counsellor and one of the founders of Oxfordshire's first Baby Café, in Abingdon, around 10 years ago. She has worked extensively with Sally and is her chosen successor. She will be supported by Mary Naomi Williams, a UNICEF-trained midwife who specialises in infant feeding, and has also worked with Sally. They will be running the clinic together (with the occasional guests appearance by Sally, covering annual leave!) until Sally's successor is in post. As the Infant Feeding Specialist post (and several other associated feeding-related posts) hasn't yet been advertised, we assume this will take several months.

You can find full details of the service, and contact details for Alex, on OUHT's Infant Feeding webpage:

<http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/women/maternity/postnatal/infant-feeding/default.aspx> For those not familiar with the page, it is an excellent resource for breastfeeding helpers, with links to many useful documents that form the basis for the approach used by the clinic.

Many of you will have contributed to the book which we presented to Chloe and Sally on their final clinic session. It looks gorgeous, and they were

delighted with it. Many thanks to everyone who sent something. Most contributions made it into the printed edition; the last few were compiled into an electronic "P.S." which they received on a disc!